Hafa Adai!
Happy Liberation Day!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 157 | WEDNESDAY JULY 4, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you intend to watch this year's Liberation Day parade?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

People across the U.S. struggle through a third day of sweltering heat.
➤ PAGE 15

FOCUS

Nowadays it seems that Babylon just can't catch a break.
➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Anderson Cooper reveals that he is gay.
➤ PAGE 20

Medicaid benefit cuts in the offing

»Program to cover only mandatory services

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As if the suspension of services by clinics and other health providers in the CNMI isn't enough, patients using Medicaid should expect cuts in their benefits soon.

Program administrator Helen Sablan and the governor's special adviser on Medicaid, Esther Muña, disclosed that the CNMI Medicaid Office has already received initial approval from the Medicare and Medicaid Office in Region 9 to eliminate optional services being provided to program beneficiaries.

Both said the proposed bene-

See MEDICAID on Page 4

Revised $114M budget allots more to Fund, Medicaid, medical referral

»Revision reflects 80 hours, transition to Social Security, DCCA reorganization

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial submitted to the Legislature late Monday night a revised fiscal year 2013 budget of $114.320 million, a $12.32-million increase from the original submission of $102 million on March 30. Most of it will be used to end the 16-hour work cuts biweekly and infuse $11 million—instead of the original $10

See REVISED on Page 4

MHS Glee Club finishes 2nd in nat'l competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI made history once again at the national level after the Marianas High School Glee Club Rhythm N' Harmony won second place in the group musical category at the recent national thespian festival in Lincoln, Nebraska.

MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday this latest recognition for the group, which competed against delegates from other states last June 25.

The CNMI sent 29 delegates to the national competition this year. Of that number, 12 are members of the glee club. These students, Cabrera said, are expected to arrive today.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the Marianas High School Glee Club during a performance at the 2012 National Thespian Festival held in Lincoln, Nebraska. The group, along with other delegates from the Commonwealth, is expected to arrive today.

Cabrera said she received a text message yesterday from Harold Easton, the group's musical director and chapter director for the Thespian Society in the Western Pacific Islands, telling her the good news.

She said she is very proud of the students' achievements but wasn't surprised when she learned of the victory. Cabrera cited the diligence and perseverance of the students and the time and efforts they put in for the national show.

She said the club's members

See MHS on Page 4

Pangelinan crowned 2012 Liberation Queen

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An Elementary Education major at the Northern Marianas College was crowned the 2012 Liberation Queen during the coronation night held Monday evening at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Lydee Rose Sablan Pangelinan was in tears as she was joined by parents Eric and Angela and other family members, friends, and sponsors in receiving her crown and sash from 2011 Liberation Queen Joni Castro, Mayor Donald G. Flores, and Liberation Queen Committee chair Tina Concepcion.

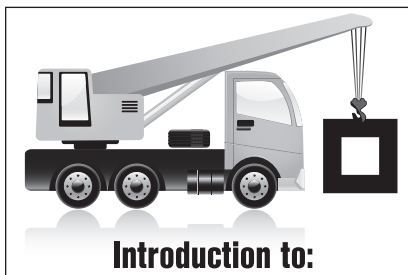
Pangelinan bested four other candidates after selling the most

See PANGELINAN on Page 4

CLARISSA V. DAVID
The 2012 Liberation Queen and Royal Court pose for a group photo immediately after the coronation night held Monday night at the Garapan Fishing Base. From left to right, 3rd Princess Susanne Park, 1st Princess Loria Dee Ada Hocog, Liberation Queen Lydee Rose Sablan Pangelinan, Royal Princess Maria Angelica Babac Malasarte, and 2nd Princess Carmelyn Teregeyo Agulto.

In-patient pharmacist Raho quits CHC. PAGE 6
PH Consul General Macaraig is back. PAGE 7

Local



SEAFIX INCORPORATED

Introduction to: Industrial workplace Training & OSHA Safety Training

Free courses will be offered to entry level participants interested in obtaining employment in the industrial fields. Certificates will be issued to individuals who successfully complete each course.

This project is aimed at training U.S. qualified workers to gain employment, is completely funded by Department of Interior Technical Assistance Grant TA-CNMI-0211-5.

- Do you like to work with your hands?
- Do you like to work outdoors?
- Are you unemployed or looking for change?
- Have you completed the Bridge Project?

Give us TEN hours of your time and attention. 10

We will give you a better chance at gaining employment in the industrial workplace.

Interested parties, please send email to seafixadmin@pticom.com, call 322-0997, or pick up application from at the Seafix Office. Located in the Pacific Trading Building, north of Bank of Hawaii/MH II.

Wishing you a safe and happy Liberation Day!

40th YEAR Tan Holdings Established 1972

www.tanholdings.com

TRO vs Managaha access placed under advisement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a marathon two-day hearing, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho placed yesterday under advisement the bid of five marine sports operators to prevent the Department of Public Lands from barring them access to Managaha Island.

Camacho said he will issue a decision on the matter "with the highest priority."

Marine sports operators are asking the court to bar DPL from prohibiting them from picking up customers on Managaha unless they are Tasi Tours or its subcontractors.

Representatives of these marine sports operators testified yesterday that they will be forced to shut down their business following DPL's decision to prohibit them from picking up customers on Managaha for their tours.

Tasi Tours, however, claimed that when these marine sports operators take customers off Managaha for banana boat and parasail tours, the company's average profit loss is $1,477 per day. Tasi Tours also stated that the average daily profit loss for its subcontractor, Advance Marine Saipan Inc., is $1,930.

In his closing arguments, Mark Scoggins, counsel for five marine sports operators, said that Tasi Tours should be ashamed for trying to kill his clients' businesses by monopolizing access to Managaha.

In the first place, Scoggins said, Tasi Tours should not have been allowed to intervene in the lawsuit since it is purely an administrative matter. He pointed out that DPL flipped-flopped on this issue four times.

Tasi Tours' lawyer, Rexford Kosack, said the silent defendants in this case are people of NMI descent who are stakeholders in the Tasi Tours' agreement with DPL.

Kosack said that DPL simply restated the regulations, which have been in existence for over 18 years. He said DPL told the marine sports operators to stop their activities on Managaha because there is a concession agreement between Tasi Tours and DPL for exclusive rights to all commercial concessions on the island.

Camacho allowed Tasi Tours to intervene in the lawsuit on Monday, saying it is proper for Tasi Tours to intervene as it satisfies the four-element test of intervention.

Camacho granted a TRO last week at the request of five marine sports operators: Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc. doing business as Amigo Aquatic Sports, Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc. The five are suing DPL to invalidate the department's rule promulgated on Dec. 13, 2011 and June 14, 2012.

On Monday's hearing, Kosack argued that if Tasi Tours is not permitted to intervene, it will be forced to file a lawsuit against each of the plaintiffs for intentional interference with contract and file a lawsuit against DPL for breach of contract.

Kosack said the plaintiffs are seeking to nullify Tasi Tours multi-million dollar contract with the government or DPL.

"This is a lawsuit that affects substantial rights, involves complex contracts, and affects multiple parties," Kosack said.

Scoggins argued, however, that the lawsuit does not throw Tasi Tours' contract out the window but is a very simple Administrative Procedure Act case against DPL for improperly changing the rules and Tasi Tours' interests are not impaired in the lawsuit.

Scoggins described Tasi Tours as a bully that is intimidating and trying to run his clients out of business. "They want a monopoly of marine sports."

Scoggins said they believe that there's political pressure on DPL. "It appears to us in the beginning there's a political pressure," he added.

David Pangelinan, president and owner of Island Marine Sports, testified that he has been in marine sports for 30 years and that this was his first time to hear about this DPL regulation.

The 73-year-old Pangelinan said if DPL continues enforcing the regulations he may close the business. "Why should I continue the business when it's losing?" he asked.

Before DPL regulation, Pangelinan said they used to have 40 to 50 customers a day. After the DPL rule, he said they are lucky to have four or five customers a day.

Pangelinan said he invested $600,000 in their company and that if he had known about the DPL rule, he would not have engaged in the business.

Pangelinan stressed that they never do business or recruit customers on Managaha.

Manuel Alvarez of Seahorse Inc. testified that DPL's rule will have a big impact on the company's operations. "If the rule stands I have to reduce my employees," said Alvarez who has been in business for 26 years.

He said they have invested $900,000 in their business and that he would not have done so if he knew that DPL would change the rule.

The marine sports operators want the court to issue a judgment declaring the DPL rule and interpretation invalid for failing to follow the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act and to issue an order finding DPL's interpretation of its concession agreement unenforceable.

Marine sports tour operators provide services such as jet ski rental, parasailing, banana boating, and other activities.

Scoggins said the five companies have engaged in Managaha to Managaha water sports for many years, some for 20 years or more.

IN FUND LEGAL FEES

OPA gives way to OAG review

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor is giving way—at least for now—to the Office of the Attorney General on the review of legal fees incurred by the NMI Retirement Fund in filing a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition. A federal judge later dismissed the bankruptcy petition.

Public Auditor Michael Pai confirmed yesterday that OPA received a letter from Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), adding that they have discussed the matter on the Fund legal fees and "decided that since the OAG is already working on this matter, OPA should wait for the results of the OAG's work before proceeding with its own."

"This approach would minimize a duplication of effort," Pai told *Saipan Tribune.*

Dela Cruz asked OPA last week to audit the reported $1.2 million legal fees that the Fund is being billed related to the Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. The amount has since been disputed, with court filings indicating it's less than $1.2 million.

In a phone interview yesterday, Dela Cruz said he understands and supports OPA's decision to give way to the OAG review.

"I also don't want OPA to duplicate the work that's being done by the AG's Office. I will wait until the AG is done with its review, and we would see what the result will be, and we move from there," he said.

Dela Cruz had also asked OPA to determine the work performed by all legal firms in the filing of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition on behalf of the Fund, a listing of all legal firms involved in the case and their hourly rate charge, and the number of hours charged by each legal firm.

He also asked OPA to determine whether the Fund issued a request for proposal or awarded a sole-source contract for its bankruptcy lawyers, including the Boston-based Brown & Rudnick law firm. Dela Cruz also asked whether the decision to file for bankruptcy and the retention of legal counsels made in public meetings pursuant to the Open Government Act.

The NMI Retirement Fund is the first public pension agency on American soil to seek bankruptcy protection. The governor placed the Fund under a state of emergency after a federal judge indicated that he will dismiss the bankruptcy petition.

No organizational plan yet for Fund's administration

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The employment contracts of personnel working at the NMI Retirement Fund remain unchanged pending the Fitial administration's final plan to reorganize the pension agency.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial disclosed this during a recent press briefing for the Kagman Community Health Center in reaction to concerns that he may not keep Richard Villagomez as Fund administrator.

Villagomez's contract will expire next month and, based on a recent letter he sent the Legislature, he hinted that this contract may not be renewed.

"I haven't started the plan how the new Fund administration will be," Fitial said when asked if he will retain Villagomez and the services of the Fund's lawyers once the agency is transferred under the Finance Department.

Fitial pointed out that the Fund's transfer to Finance will not take effect while the bankruptcy case is still in court.

A bankruptcy filing stops all legal proceedings, including implementation of the governor's executive order placing the Fund under emergency.

The governor said he will wait for the formal dismissal of the case before any action is taken on the Fund situation.

"The case is now under the control of the bankruptcy court. Until and unless the court dismisses the case, you can't do anything and that has to be understood because a lot of people don't understand that," Fitial said.

In his letter to the Legislature, Villagomez recommended several ways on how Fund issues will be addressed. Among them is the establishment of a separate trust account under the Department of Finance to ensure that Fund assets will not be used for other purposes other than to pay for members' benefits.

According to Fitial, if this is what the retirees want, they should share it with him for consideration.

The government owes the Fund over $320 million in unpaid employer contributions, resulting in the depletion of the Fund's assets.

Fitial reiterated that the government currently has no money to meet this obligation. He said he's ready to go to jail if retirees so wish.

The governor reminded that a budget is only a planning tool for the government. The actual money, he said, still depends on collections and revenues generated.

As a solution to the ongoing crises at the pension agency, Fitial identified the transfer of active members to the federal Social Security Administration, which he said is not only cheaper but more secure because it has no unfunded liabilities.

i'm lovin' it
Liberation Day Special
$5.99
Local Deluxe Breakfast Platter
Regular Chicken McBites Extra Value Meal
Chicken McBites, Juicy bites made with chicken breast meat. Imagine the poppabilities.
$4.99
Snack Size
$1.99
Regular Size
$2.99
Shareable Size
$6.99
PROMOS ARE FOR LIMITED TIME ONLY!
STORE HOURS: Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30AM to 10:00PM • Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS. DAILY (24/7)
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 - Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com

TSC
Taro Sue Store
Phone: (670) 234-5416/17 • Fax: (670) 235-5415
Enviro Aire™
BE "GREEN" WITH ENVIRO AIRE
4TH OF JULY
BLOW-OUT SALE
Sale until July 7, 2012
Electric Bike
Reg. Price $689.00
NOW $344.50
Regular Umbrella 40"
Reg. Price $9.95
NOW $2.49
Beach Umbrella 64"
Reg. Price $29.95
NOW $7.49
Kids Car Bed with Futon
Reg. Price $459.00
NOW $179.00
All Display Frames 75%
House Decors 25% - 50% up to 75%
House Wares & Stoves 25%-50% w/ tag
Car Accessories 50%
Car Mat 25%
All Kinds of Furniture's 25% - 50% with tag
Ladies & Men's Bag, Luggage's, Backpack 25%
Men's, Women's & Kids Clothing 25%-50% w/ tag
Sports & Regular Bikes 20% (Parts & Accessories not included)
Kitchen & Restaurant Commercial Equipment, Beds, Bunk Bed, Washer, Stove Range, Refrigerator, Freezer – 10% Only!
Located @ corner Commonwealth Drive, Pale Arnold Road (Middle Rd.) next to Sugar King Park • Store Hours: 8:30 am to 6:30 pm Monday to Saturday

Lawmaker's son found dead

A son of a lawmaker was found dead in a jungle near their residence in Capital Hill on Monday late afternoon, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

The Department of Public Safety is expected to release details about the incident today, Wednesday.

Initial police investigation showed there was no foul play noted. DPS, however, placed the matter under further investigation.

Sources said the victim was reported missing since Friday and that police found the body Monday afternoon. ***(FDT)***

MEDICAID

From Page 1

fit cuts were submitted in April and the Medicaid Office has 120 days or until this month to approve the plan.

Mandatory services that would be left covered under the new state plan are in-patient services, out-patient services, other laboratory and X-ray services, nursing facility services, physician's services, early and periodic screening, diagnostic and treatment for children under 18, home health care, family planning, and rural health clinic when referred to off-island.

The optional services that will be cut are clinic services, optometry services, other practitioner services, dental, physical therapy, occupational therapy; speech, hearing, and language disorders; prescribed drugs, dentures, prosthetic devices, eyeglasses, wheelchair, medical supplies, rehabilitative services, and transportation to off-island facility.

Medicaid is a health program for people and families with low incomes and resources. At present, the federal government shoulders 55 percent of the cost, while the local government puts up a matching share of 45 percent.

According to Muña, once they receive the formal approval from Medicare, the state plan will be sent to medical providers.

Once implemented, Medicaid expects a savings of over $1 million.

Medicare was informed

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that, as a courtesy, her office has been keeping the Region 9 Medicare Office abreast on what's been happening with the program lately, particularly the suspension of services by many private medical providers who have not been reimbursed since fiscal year 2011.

As of this week, three providers have suspended services to Medicaid patients: PHI Pharmacy, Marianas Medical Center, and Saipan Health Clinic. They said Medicaid patients will have to pay out of pocket if they still want to avail of these providers' services.

The three companies have yet to state when they will resume services to Medicaid patients, saying it will all depend on how much they could collect from the Finance Department.

Sablan and Muña blame the non-payment of reimbursements on the matching requirement for the program, which they believe is unfair to the CNMI. The program's current 45-55 matching ratio will go back to 50-50 in 2014. Other states in America, they said, enjoy 100 percent coverage while others have 75-25 matching requirements.

Due to the difficulty in finding local money to match the federal share, arrears to vendors continue to balloon. For off-island and on-island private providers, the unpaid obligation now amounts to over $15 million.

PANGELINAN

From Page 1

number of tickets at 1,100 after exactly 23 days since receiving the tickets during the pinning ceremony last June 8.

"With the help of my family, I'm very happy and excited of what's ahead of me," a very surprised Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview immediately after the coronation.

Pangelinan noted the support of her family and the entire community as the contributing factor for her victory, extending her sincere appreciation to them.

The 18-year-old 2012 Liberation Queen was sponsored by Northern Marianas Business Process LLC, doing business as Konbetsa Café and Walk in Closet. Proprietor Glenna SP Reyes and husband, Sen. Pete Reyes, congratulated Pangelinan on stage.

When asked how she will represent the CNMI as the Liberation Queen, Pangelinan vowed to become visible in the community by attending events, especially those that need her and the 2012 Royal Court's presence.

This year's Royal Princess is Maria Angelica Babac Malasarte, who put up a good fight with the help of her parents, Malou and Bong, and sponsors United Filipino Organization and Armatech.

Malasarte, an incoming junior at Saipan Southern High School, related how thankful she is to everyone who supported her.

"I don't regret anything because I know God has His plans. If I'm the Royal Princess, that's how it is," said the towering 15-year-old lass, adding that she is "really proud" of Pangelinan for winning the pageant.

The rest of the 2012 Royal Court are Loria Dee Ada Hocog, 1st Princess; Carmelyn Teregeyo Agulto, 2nd Princess; and Susanne Park, 3rd Princess.

This year's Royal Court, along with members of the 2011 Royal Court, were serenaded by Leonard Manuel, the young winner of this year's Marianas Idol singing competition held during the NMC Charter Day last May 4.

The 2011 Royal Court present were 1st runner up Mariah I. Ada and Royal Princess Nizelynn T. Masayos.

The 2011 Liberation Queen, Joni Castro, also took the traditional Farewell Walk, waving to the scores of community members at the festival grounds as she thanked her family and recounted her fondest memories during her reign.

Liberation Queen Committee chair Tina Concepcion said that in the course of the competition she got to know this year's Royal Court and is thankful and happy to be called their *madre*.

"They are all beautiful inside and out," said Concepcion, adding that the girls will all serve as "ambassadors" of the islands.

Monday night's event was hosted by Rosemond B. Santos and Mikaela Manglona. The Kagman High School JROTC Color Guards did the posting of colors. Pastor Eric Abragan of the Life in the Son Church offered invocation while the award-winning Umang Glee Club sang the national anthems.

The Liberation Queen pageant is part of the 2012 Liberation Day festivities, which will culminate today with the traditional parade and program starting at 10am at the National Office Supply and end at the festival grounds.

REVISED

From Page 1

million—into the NMI Retirement Fund and over $3 million more for healthcare services such as Medicaid and medical referrals.

The underlying assumptions in the governor's revised budget also include transitioning all active employees into the U.S. Social Security retirement program.

"This change, when effectuated, reduces the employer contribution for all active DB [defined benefit] members from 37.39 percent to 6.20 percent and an increase for the DC [defined contribution] members from 4 percent to 6.20 percent," Fitial said in his letter to legislative officials.

By accepting the $12 million increase in projected budget, the Legislature would in effect be agreeing to the transition to the U.S. Social Security for active members, according to House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) yesterday.

The governor cited expected collection gains from business gross revenue tax, wage and salary tax, and hotel occupancy tax for the revised 2013 budget.

Fiscal year 2013 is from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2013.

The revised budget still brings the CNMI back to the levels of over 20 years ago.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they are poised to adopt a new concurrent resolution to reflect the governor's revised 2013 budget submission.

The Senate leadership received the governor's revised budget at 9:25pm, and the House leadership, at 9:51pm on Monday, beating the July 2 deadline for revision. The deadline was supposed to be July 1, but because it fell on a Sunday, it was moved to July 2.

"Our approach to this revision is to revamp our existing retirement program, restore efficiency in government operations, and maintain our commitment toward continued funding to the [Fund]," Fitial said.

He said his revised budget is "balanced"—where the total amount of proposed expenditures does not exceed total estimated resources available for appropriation.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday he believes the administration "has proposed, as revised, a very workable expenditure plan that addresses all the major areas of concern thus far."

"Moreover, after two years of austerity, the administration believes that we've reached a point where government employees could return to earning wages at the full 80-hour work week," Demapan added.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who oversees government finances, said in a chance interview Monday afternoon that a $12-million increase in projected budget for 2013 was to be expected.

'More disposable income'

Fitial told lawmakers that a "positive effect" of the transition to U.S. Social Security will trigger an increase of 6.3 percent in take-home wages for all DB members; thus more disposal income will be spent in the local economy resulting from the planned implementation.

He said it will also save the government 31.19 percent in employer contribution and seals the unfunded liability from growing further.

The government owes the Fund some $320 million in unpaid employer contribution plus interests.

"The government's debt to the [Fund] becomes more manageable first by developing a plan to satisfy its obligations to fulfill the payment toward the unfunded liability," Fitial said.

The Fitial administration is drafting legislation to effectuate this change.

Camacho said the next House session could be on Friday, wherein the House will adopt a new concurrent resolution on the revised budget submission.

"The governor's priorities are similar to what we have anticipated—going back to 80 hours, more money for healthcare and the Fund," the House floor leader said.

Fitial's revised budget also lifts the austerity Friday or the 16-hour work cut every two weeks. The austerity imposed on all federally funded programs will also be lifted.

'Cautiously optimistic'

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), a member of the House minority bloc, described the increase in projected revenues as "very interesting."

"I just hope it's not because it's election year. I am cautiously optimistic about all these things. What's 'more' to some may not be 'more' to others. And these are just projections. We are projecting more yet we owe a lot of vendors a lot of money. And we still have a bloated government," Tebuteb said.

The Senate president, meanwhile, said it's "good news" that the administration is projecting increased revenue in 2013.

"The Senate has taken the position that if the government has to cut costs, it has to cut hiring and cut its other expenditures, and not take it from government employees' pockets. …As you may recall, the Senate didn't want 16-hour cuts and we were requesting only eight-hour cuts that's why the Senate and the House had a budget deadlock and there was a shutdown," he said.

The Senate conceded to the House and administration's 16-hour cuts to end the shutdown that forced over 1,000 government employees temporarily out of job for days.

Budgetary resources

The projected total budgetary resources for 2013 increased by $12.97 million, or from $120.671 million on March 30 to $133.641 million as of Monday.

This gross amount has been adjusted to reflect debt service appropriations, earmarked funds and other legal set-asides, resulting in net available resources of $121.007 million.

"The anticipated gains in revenues for [fiscal year] 2013 are in business gross revenue tax, wage and salary tax and the hotel occupancy tax," Fitial said.

Although the failed launching of Saipan Air will retard any increase in the number of seats arriving directly from the China and the Japan markets, Fitial said the focus is to "mitigate what was to become a reality by looking at our available alternatives such as providing incentives to those airlines with a commitment to increase the number of seats to the Northern Marianas and promoting a vigorous campaign to maximizing all available seats if we want to grow our tourism economy within our existing regional markets."

The governor's budget submission still suspends certain earmarks related to the nonresident worker fund fees and general fund poker fees.

Considerations

Fitial's revised budget has six specific considerations.

First, it vacates the existing retirement program for active defined benefit and defined contribution employees. Fitial has placed the Fund under a state of emergency, and will transfer the agency under the Department of Finance.

Second, it transitions all active government employees into the U.S. Social Security retirement program.

Third, it lifts austerity by restoring 16 work hours to all affected government employees.

Fourth, it increases Medicaid matching by an additional $1 million.

Fifth, it increases Medical referral allocation by an additional $2,135,408.

Sixth, it allocates $11 million in continued funding for the Fund. This reflects a $1-million increase from his original submission. Fitial said this is to cover a portion of the unfunded liability for unpaid employer contribution.

"The effects of the application indicated above resulted in a net budget of $121.007 million," Fitial said.

This net budget requirement is further reduced by expenditures being absorbed by Compact Impact reimbursements and transfer of eligible expenditures into non-general fund sources of $1.907 million and $4.780 million, respectively.

Others

Fitial didn't change the original allocation of $2.25 million to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The administration also maintains a conservative projection related to the $150 fee imposed on every foreign worker petitioned for a Commonwealth-only worker permit.

Fitial said the revised budget also increases the allocation for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs after transferring the Historic Preservation Office, the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Commission, and the Arts Council into the Indigenous Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor. The bill that effectuates these changes remains with the House.

MHS

From Page 1

are not only musically inclined but also do well in their academics. Most members even want to pursue music as a career in the future, she added.

The MHS Glee Club was formed in 2010 and won the CNMI's first choral competition in April 2011. In March this year, the group emerged as the overall champion in the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam, bringing home the competition's Sweepstakes Trophy.

This year mark the group's second time to compete at the national event.

Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* that club members, who participated in numerous fundraisers and shows on island, serve as a great inspiration for many students. She recognized the school's "good partnership" with other organizations and groups such as the Friends of the Arts, which helps enhance the skills and talents of members.

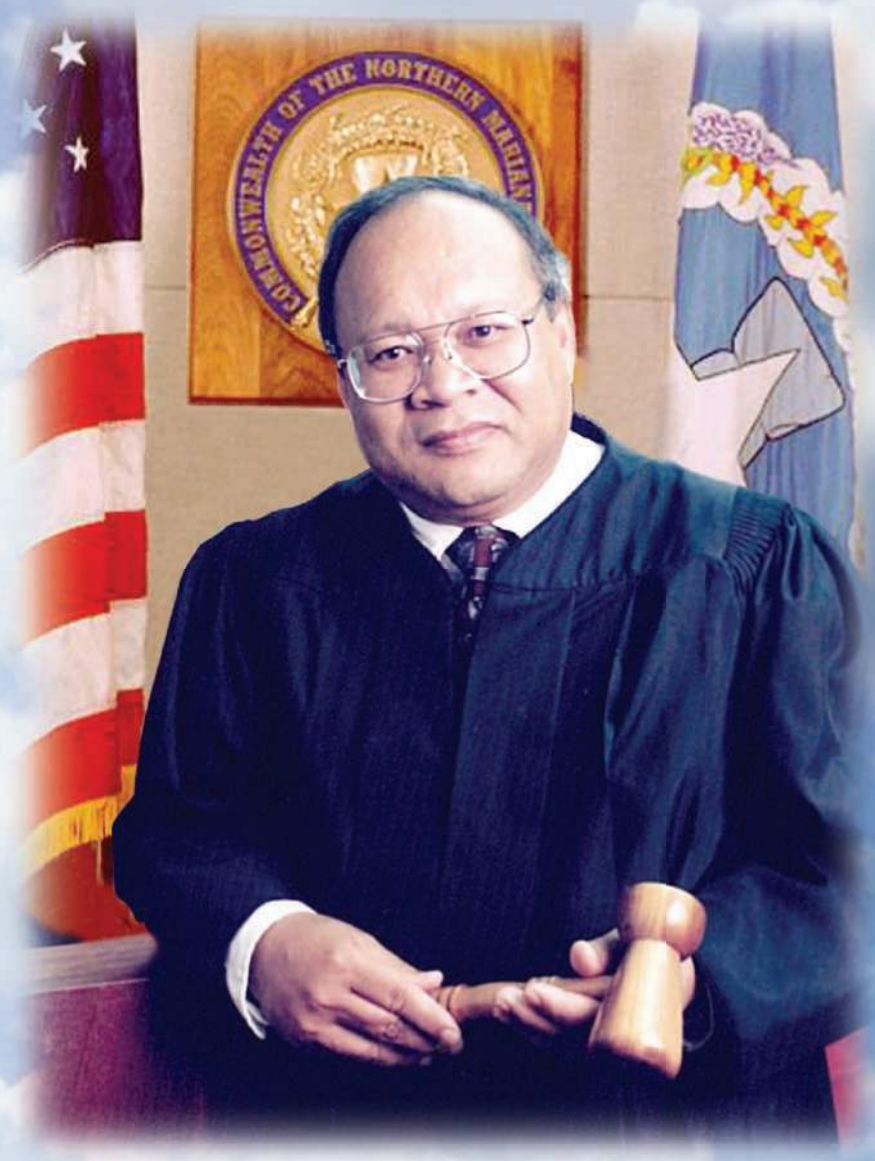
The club is led by musical director Paul Dujua of Friends of the Arts, MHS choral group director Ruthie Fruit, and Easton.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory

MIGUEL SABLAN DEMAPAN

was born on July 16, 1952 and called to his eternal rest on June 30, 2012.



Survived by:

Wife: Frances Tenorio Demapan

Children: Michael Louis T. & Nina Demapan and Bella
Patrick James T. Demapan
Frances Morella T. Demapan
Soleana T. Demapan
Micaela T. Demapan

Brothers, Sisters & In Laws:

Juan S. & Rita B. Demapan & Family
Antonio S. & Ignacia T. Demapan & Family
Ana D. & Jesus M. Castro & Family
Jose S. & Susana R. Demapan & Family
Roman S. & Rosita R. Demapan & Family
David S. & Jovita C. Demapan & Family
Maryann D. & Carlos A. Calvo
Thomas S. Demapan
Bryan / Darren / Kelly T. Demapan

Jesus R. & Annie T. Sablan & Family
Clarence T. Tenorio & Family
Norman T. & Keli A. Tenorio & Family
Roman S. & Patricia T. Palacios & Family
Joseph R. Guzman & Priscilla T. Tenorio & Family

Stepmother: Maura T. Demapan

Predeceased by:

Father: Gregorio Deleon Guerrero Demapan
Mother: Micaela Sablan Demapan
Father In-Law: Jose C. Tenorio
Mother In-Law: Soledad T. Tenorio

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. On Monday, July 9, 2012, his body will leave the Commonwealth Health Center at 6:30 a.m. and escorted to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral for responso, rosary, viewing and last respects. The mass of Christian burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m. followed by interment and burial at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Dankolo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Olomwai and Thank you

Frances T. Demapan, Children and Family

Longtime in-patient pharmacist Raho quits CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center's longtime in-patient pharmacist, Anthony Raho, has resigned to join the private sector.

Raho, who is also an elected member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of directors, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday his departure from the public hospital. His resignation is effective Thursday, July 5. He will transfer to FHP as its regular pharmacist.

Raho began working at the public hospital in August 1996 as staff pharmacist. Three months later, he was promoted to director of the Pharmacy Section.

When the corporation took over in October last year, he was elected by his peers to represent non-physician employees of CHC on the board.

According to Raho, his resignation is not sudden as he had tendered his notice in May.

Since he retired in April 2011, he is allowed only two years to double dip (to receive both a salary and pension). With eight months remaining on that two-year period, he decided to accept a job in the private sector.

He admitted that the ongoing crises on retirement, delayed housing benefits and allotments, payroll uncertainty, and medical supplies were also factors in his decision.

Raho's departure will leave CHC with only one in-patient pharmacist.

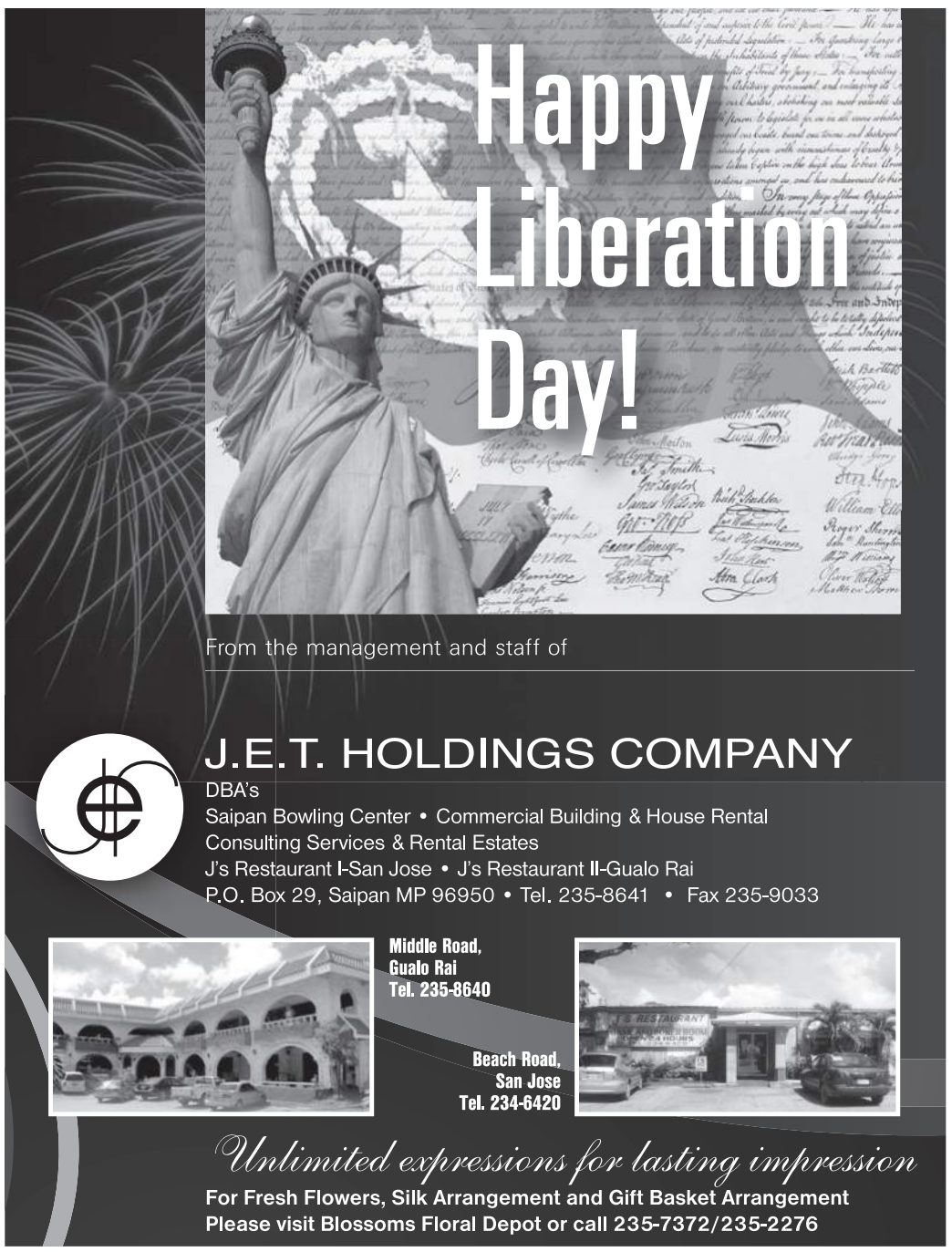
Raho assured, though, that the corporation is aggressively looking for his replacement. In fact, he said, there's locum pharmacist who is interested in coming to CHC to replace him. A locum is a temporary work agreement that ranges from two to six months.

As a corporation board member, Raho said there are still a lot of things he wants to accomplish for the hospital but couldn't do it anymore for many reasons.

"I am sad to leave them, especially in this time of ongoing struggles and challenges. I just wish all of them the very best and hoping things here at the hospital improve," he said.

Raho described his years at CHC as a wonderful experience. "It's been a wonderful experience! I spent a good part of my career at CHC and I had a great respect and admiration for all my co-workers. For these many years of working together, they are like brothers and sisters to me," he said.

Pursuant to corporation law, hospital employees must elect their representative to the board of directors. With a pending legislation that proposes to remove the non-physician employees' representative from the board, an election may not be needed for Raho's replacement.


Happy Liberation Day!
From the management and staff of
J.E.T. HOLDINGS COMPANY
DBA's
Saipan Bowling Center • Commercial Building & House Rental
Consulting Services & Rental Estates
J's Restaurant I-San Jose • J's Restaurant II-Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 29, Saipan MP 96950 • Tel. 235-8641 • Fax 235-9033
Middle Road,
Gualo Rai
Tel. 235-8640
Beach Road,
San Jose
Tel. 234-6420
Unlimited expressions for lasting impression
For Fresh Flowers, Silk Arrangement and Gift Basket Arrangement
Please visit Blossoms Floral Depot or call 235-7372/235-2276

Domestic violence lands man in prison for 30 days

A man accused of relentlessly harassing his former girlfriend and beating her up but was only convicted of disturbing the peace was slapped with a 30-day prison sentence.

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos last week sentenced Lucian Ignacio George to six months in prison, all suspended except for 30 days.

The 44-year-old George was given credit for the nine days he has already served in jail. He will begin serving his sentence on July 9, 2012.

Once he gets out, George will be placed on one year of supervised probation. He was also ordered to pay a $100 fine plus probation fee.

In a bench trial in May, Inos acquitted George on the charges of assault and battery and interfering with a domestic violence report but found him guilty of disturbing the peace.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister recommended a sentence of 90 days in jail.

McAllister said the government provided evidence at trial that George repeatedly called the victim's phone until she finally agreed to have dinner with him one last time.

George showed up for dinner drunk and threatened to kill the victim's family, friends, and co-workers, and "cover the table with blood." He then snatched the victim's phone as she was calling for help.

"These events severely frightened [the victim] and she was visibly shaken when testifying in court," he said.

McAllister said the evidence also showed that George grabbed the victim's face and squeezed her neck.

The prosecutor noted that George is facing another domestic violence charge against the same victim.

In that case, McAllister said, the government will show that over the course of more than a year, the defendant engaged in several incidents that frightened the victim, including reckless driving, harassing phone calls, and even stabbing a bed where she was seated.

Assistant public defender Benjamin K. Petersburg recommended a sentence of nine days, with credit for nine days already served.

Petersburg also recommended that his client, George, be placed on one year of probation and that he stay away from the victim, complete anger management counseling, attend alcohol and drug counseling. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Rotary Club to print more tickets for its Las Vegas Night fundraiser

■ First prize upgraded to 2012 Hyundai Elantra
■ Organization calls for more volunteers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With less than two weeks to go before the 2012 Las Vegas Night on July 14, the Rotary Club of Saipan has decided to print additional tickets for its biggest annual fundraiser, set for 7pm at the Saipan World Resort.

Newly installed vice president Laila Y. Boyer said during yesterday's meeting that the 5,000 tickets that were initially printed have already been distributed to most Rotarians, with some of them "quadrupling" their number of tickets, leaving others without their share of tickets to sell.

Boyer disclosed that last year, Rotary Club of Saipan printed a total of 8,000 tickets.

Rotarian Kim Forrester noted, though, that the club would rather have "leftover" tickets than not having tickets to sell since the printing of tickets won't cost them much.

Tickets to the fundraising event cost $5 each or $20 for a booklet containing five tickets.

Community Services director Curtis Dancoe said that the club will set up a booth at the Sabalu Market and at Joeten Superstore on July 7, the Saturday before the fundraiser.

Boyer expressed optimism that the additional tickets will be sold with the "upgrade" in the car prize at stake.

She revealed that this year's grand prize is either $10,000 or a brand new Hyundai Elantra, a step up from the previously announced Hyundai Accent. Boyer said that Triple J Motors, the island's Hyundai cars dealer, provided them the same price for a better model.

The program for the event will have the theme "Stars and Stripes" in celebration of Liberation Month. Rotarians are encouraged to dress up in red, white, and blue.

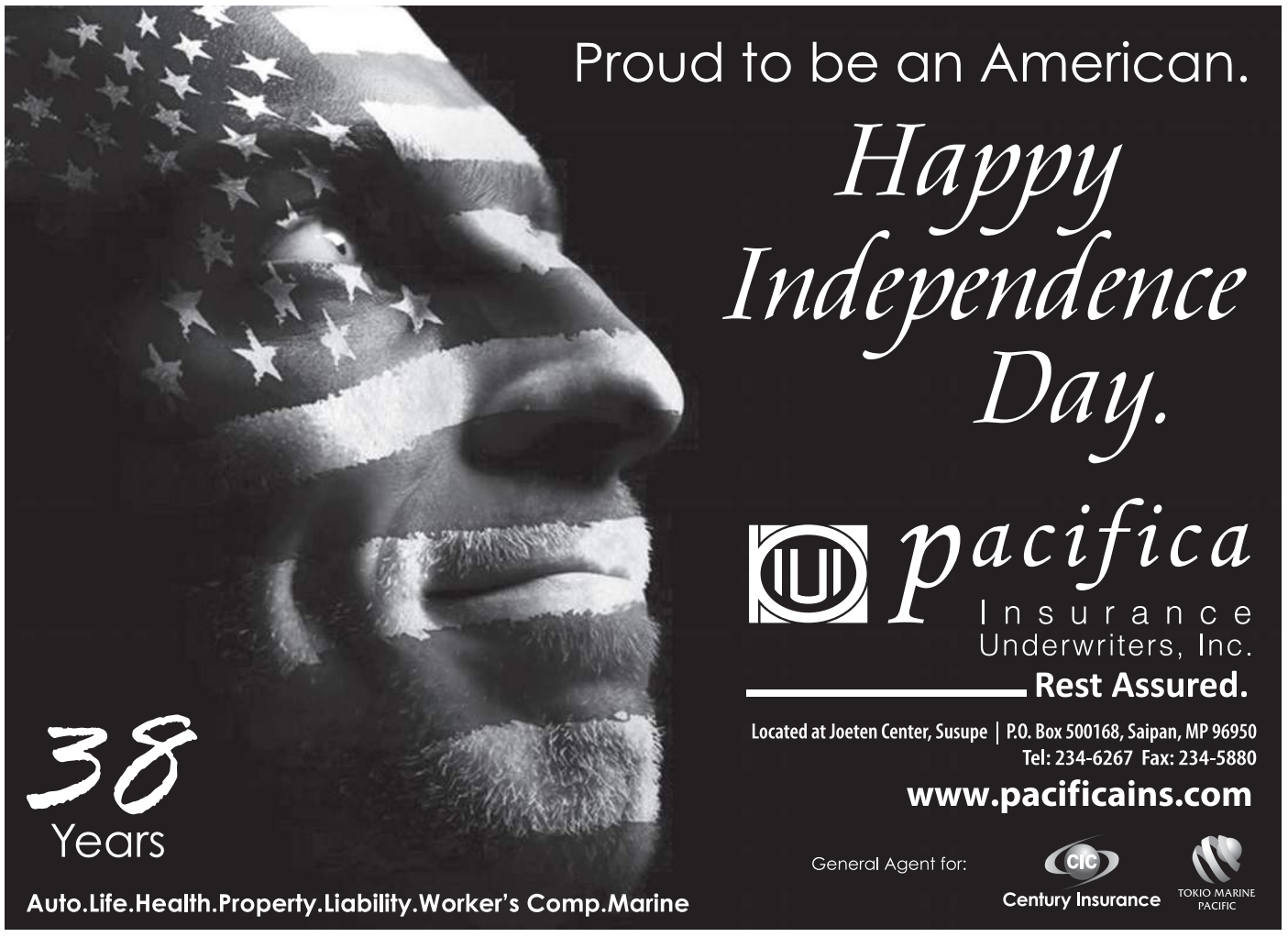
Boyer stated that the Club is "pretty much set" for the Las Vegas Night as they have all the needed materials such as the 100 decks of cards that will be used for the event.

However, they are still in need of more volunteers, although a number of Rotarians and others have already signed up to help as dealers or cashiers.

Boyer said that, they are expecting more bettors this year with the additional Texas Hold'em tables. She noted, though, that there won't be any tables for the popular dice game called craps.

There will be an orientation for all volunteers before game night.

For more information, email saipanrotary@gmail.com.



PH Consul General Macaraig is back

By CLAIRSSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig is back on Saipan since Monday, over a month after being off-island to attend to his wife who remains in critical condition in Manila.

"It's a matter of duty to continue the work here and continue the unfinished business relating to consulate matters," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office at the Marianas Business Plaza yesterday.

Macaraig left in mid-May after his wife, Teresa Roselyn, suffered a massive stroke and had to be flown to St. Luke's Medical Center Global City where she continues to receive medical treatment. Macaraig has been with his wife since then.

"I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to all the people who prayed and continue to pray for my wife in this difficult time for our family," said the father of two daughters.

Macaraig noted that his length of stay on island is subject to any order from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

For the meantime, Macaraig will be working on preparing his "turnover report" in anticipation of the consulate's closure after Oct. 31.

"Everybody at the consulate is preparing for it," he said.

Citing budgetary constraints, Macaraig announced last February DFA's decision to shut down the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan after over 23 years of service to the island community.

According to Macaraig, the turnover report will serve as the starting point for the Guam consulate, which has been tasked to assume the responsibilities of the Saipan consulate after its closure.

He assured, however, that administrative officer Jose M. Sto. Domingo and finance officer Rowena Tolosa will remain on island for at least a month after Oct. 31 to settle other consulate matters.

Macaraig is also handling basic administrative issues at the consulate such as signing of documents, termination of leases and other contracts, and dealing with office assets. He is also coordinating with the Guam consulate to facilitate the transfer of responsibilities between the two posts.

"I hope that I can meet with the officials of our consulate in Guam after I complete my turnover report so I could discuss that in great detail with them," he added.

Macaraig also revealed that each of the remaining staff at the consulate have already received their next consular assignments. Macaraig, who assumed his duties as Saipan Consul General on July 26, 2009, will soon head the Consulate in Washington D.C.

In other news, the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan will be open to the public today, July 4, despite being a Liberation Day holiday. The office will provide services from 9am to 4pm. For more information, call 234-1850.

Free business workshop on Friday

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, will be conducting a free workshop on "How to Read Your Financial Statements" this Friday, July 6, 2012, from 9am to 11am, at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's conference room at the Family Building in Garapan.

Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, one day before workshop. Call 664-3018 or email linda@pacificsbdc.com to pre-register or go online at http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com. For more information, contact Linda at 664-3018 or linda@pacificsbdc.com.

The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. ***(SBDC)***

Boy Scouts hosts youth summer camp

By CLAIRSSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Boy Scouts of America will host another summer camp for boys ages 12 to 18 years old.

The camp, which will run from 2pm today until Saturday afternoon, will be held at the open field next to the Kan Pacific Pool across Mariana Resort and Spa in Marpi.

Chair Wayne Gillespie of the CNMI Boy Scouts of America said yesterday that they are hoping to have 50 young boys join this year's summer camp.

"Scouts will march in the July 4th parade, then assemble at camp," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Derek Cepeda, district executive-Chamorro of the Aloha Council Boy Scouts of America, said in a separate interview that he flew to Saipan on Monday to serve as this year's camp director.

The Aloha Council covers the CNMI and other insular jurisdictions such as Guam and Palau.

Cepeda said the summer camp will involve scouts under different categories: cub scouts who are first to fifth graders; and boy scouts from sixth grade up to 18 years old.

Cepeda, who also helped out in the summer camp for the Guam Boy Scouts of America last June 18 to 23, said the participants will learn about "everything" during the camp.

"That's the magic of scouting," he said after the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday. "Over summer, they will learn the merit badge system, which is composed of 120 merit badges. They will learn about hobbies and professions and get them exposed to skills they can use throughout their lifetime."

According to Cepeda, the merit badge system is one way to expose children to different career paths such as entrepreneurship and sales as well as survival skills.

He said the recently concluded weeklong Guam summer camp featured a wide range of lessons—from nuclear science and electronics to communications and public speaking.

"We could be offering the same on Saipan if we can get volunteers from the community to help us out. We are trying to rebuild the volunteer base here because scouting is a form of re-investment in our youth," explained Cepeda.

Both Cepeda and Gillespie encouraged boys to sign up for the camp. For more information, call 483-0885.

Happy Liberation Day!

From the staff and management of

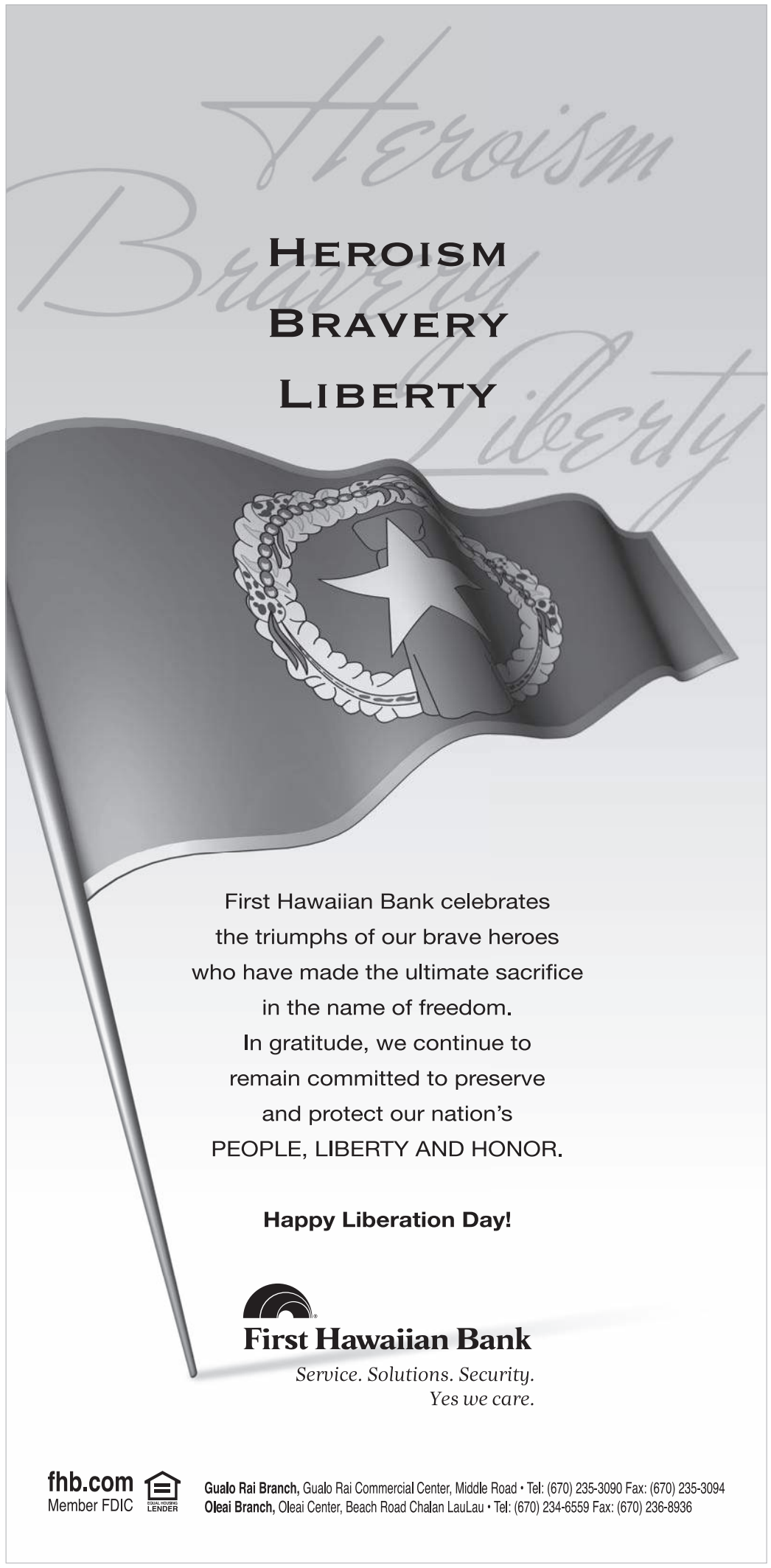
Tun Goru SNACK BAR

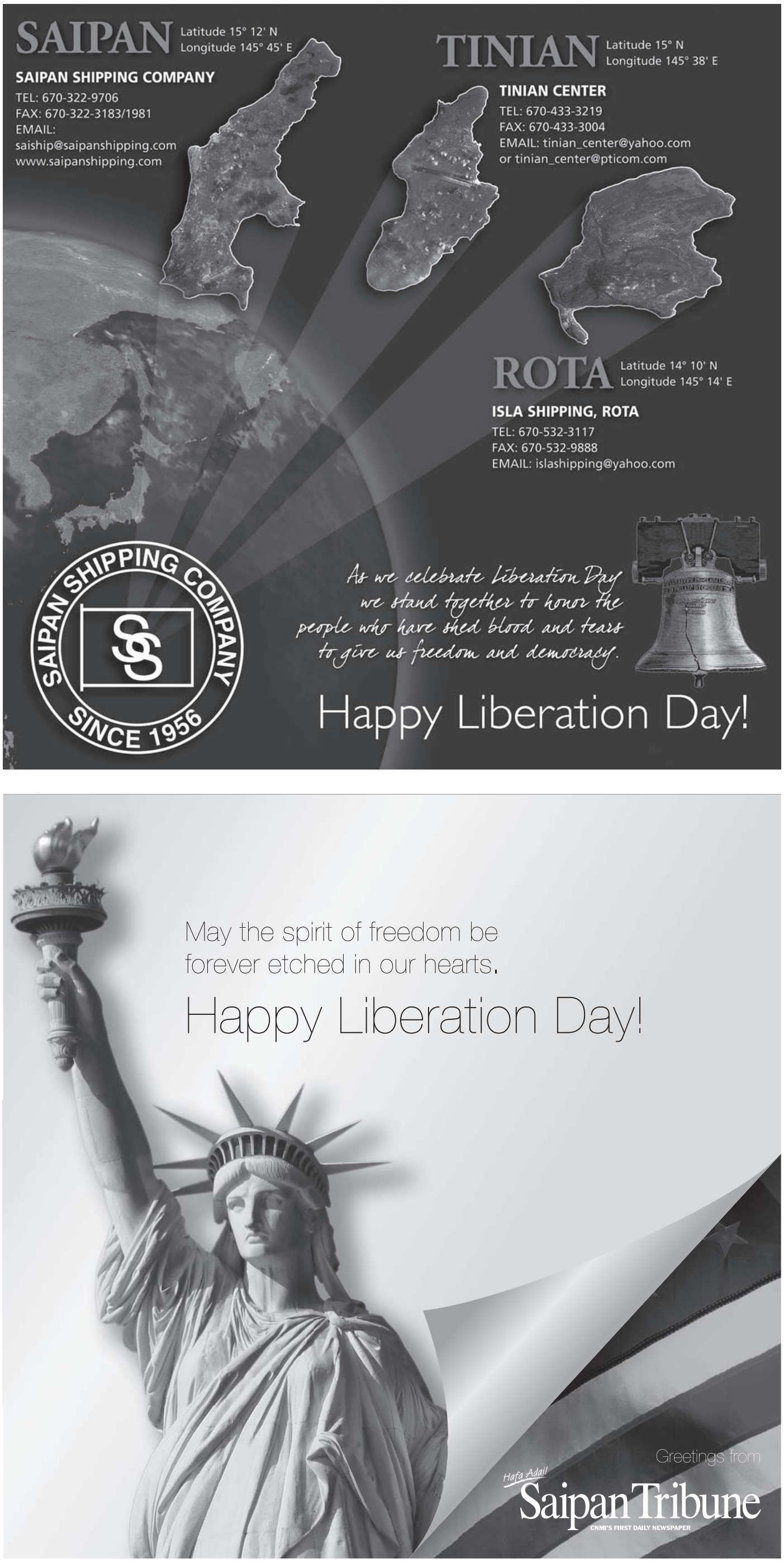
Come and visit us at the North, right side of the stage area.

- We got all kinds of Snacks and Pastries for your cravings
- BEEF FRITADA available everyday until 4th of July!

Dinner Plates $5.00

Bring the whole familia and enjoy our flavorful selections!


Heroism
Bravery
Liberty
HEROISM
BRAVERY
LIBERTY
First Hawaiian Bank celebrates
the triumphs of our brave heroes
who have made the ultimate sacrifice
in the name of freedom.
In gratitude, we continue to
remain committed to preserve
and protect our nation's
PEOPLE, LIBERTY AND HONOR.
Happy Liberation Day!
First Hawaiian Bank
Service. Solutions. Security.
Yes we care.
fhb.com
Member FDIC
Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan LauLau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 4, 2000

CDA cites low income families' inability to pay housing loans

The ability of customers to pay their loans is one of the most important factors considered by lending companies, both private and government-controlled, before credit applications are approved, according to Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio. Tenorio admitted the existing housing loan program may have failed to accommodate more applications from indigent or low income Northern Marianas families but stressed that all loan-seekers have to satisfy similar criteria to qualify for a package.

Government's unpaid bills taking toll on CUC

The government's failure to settle its $12 million debt to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is beginning to pinch the autonomous agency as officials yesterday expressed fear over its impact on their financial condition. Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero issued anew his appeal to the Tenorio administration to begin payment of its CUC obligations in light of the recent financial report that showed slimming margin between expenses and revenues of the government-owned utility corporation. While rising fuel price has increased its operational costs, CUC largely blamed the financial strains to failure by the government to pay the overdue billings that have incurred since the last quarter of 1997.

July 4, 2001

US Labor, SGMA build bridges

Federal labor officials met with garment industry leaders last week, seeking to work out an arrangement that would help bring Saipan apparel manufacturers into compliance with US labor laws. The meeting came as a result of a recent letter Pierce sent Bruce Cranford, targeted industry coordinator for the Wage and Hour Division, asking the division to temporarily hold back on its enforcement activities until Saipan companies are made more aware of the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act as they pertain to the industry.

Saipan resident trains at White House

A Marianas Baptist Academy alumna has landed a summer-long stint as a White House intern. Saipan resident Dorothy Leung was accepted to train under the National Institute of Health Extramural Research Program under the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The 21-year-old, a sophomore at Canada's York University, is aspiring to become a Sports Physiotherapist/Physical Therapist. "I am interested in the international/global aspect of health related issues and their effects. I think it is important to raise awareness on current health issues [such as sedentary lifestyle, heart disease, obesity, etc.] on Saipan and how to decrease the cases of illness," said the second year Kinesiology Honors student, via e-mail.

July 4, 2002

Chamber asks for update on TF's 3-year limit study

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will officially ask the Legislature to discuss initial results of the ongoing review by the three-year limit task force on the impact of the pending exodus of nonresident workers. Chamber President Richard Pierce said the organization will seek the assistance of Sen. Ramon Guerrero to disclose the findings on the study, which was carried out a year after Public Law 12-59 was enacted. Pierce, during the Chamber's general membership meeting at the Aqua Resort Club yesterday, noted that the Task Force is required to report its preliminary findings and recommendations to the governor and the presiding officers of the Legislature.

Cing slams new retro wage hike law

Sen. David M. Cing has described as discriminatory the recently passed local law that exclusively provides for the retroactive salary hikes of former and current government employees on Saipan. Cing urged Senate President Paul A. Manglona to correct what he perceives as the inequity of Saipan Local Law 13-8, or else he would single-handedly take on the task of fighting for the rights of the deserving employees on Tinian and Rota. Saipan Local law 13-8 increased the local license fees for pachinko and poker machines in Saipan by 200 percent, from $2,000 per machine to $6,000.

Council sets fishing and catch limits in federal waters

HONOLULU—The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council concluded its four-day meeting in Honolulu on Thursday with recommendations on the management of bottomfish and other species in offshore waters surrounding Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the remote U.S. Pacific Island areas.

■ The Council reaffirmed the main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish annual catch limit and annual catch target of 325,000 lbs for the 2012-2013 bottomfish season, which begins on Sept 1, 2012.

■ The Council, after hearing an evaluation of the State of Hawaii's Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas, recommended their removal in federal waters. The Council will work with the State of Hawaii and NMFS to develop a research plan for the remaining BFRAs in State waters, incorporating existing information and new technologies being developed.

■ The Council commented at length on the proposal to list 82 corals under the Endangered Species Act, noting that the petition is a response to climate change but would do nothing to assuage the impacts of increasing ocean temperatures and acidity. At the same time, it would increase federal government control of the coastal zones of the U.S. flagged Pacific Islands and further disenfranchise the rights of Pacific Islanders over their traditional reef fishing grounds and coral reefs.

■ The Council took final action to implement a 100-nautical mile area closure around the Mariana Archipelago for fishing vessels greater than 120 feet in length. The intent is to protect the important commercial and subsistence small-scale tuna troll fisheries in Guam and CNMI.

■ The Council took final action to provide the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI the authority to use, assign, allocate and manage catch limits of highly migratory fish stocks, or fishing effort limits, established by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission through arrangements with U.S. vessels permitted under the Council's Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

The Council also established a mechanism whereby the U.S. territories, for the purposes of responsible fisheries development, may assign up to 1,000 metric tons of their bigeye allocation to U.S. vessels managed under the Council's PFEP on an annual basis. These limits will be reviewed on an annually by the Council for purposes of consistency with WCPFC's tuna conservation and management measures and provisions for small island developing states and participating territories, which include the U.S. territories.

■ The Council directed its staff to form a working group with the State of Hawaii to look at the 3-lb minimum size limit for yellowfin and bigeye tuna catches and the impacts of increasing the size limit.

Council recommendations are transmitted to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for final approval. The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council was established by Congress to manage fisheries in offshore waters around Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, CNMI and the U.S. Pacific remote island areas. ***(WESPAC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This happy birthday shoutout goes out to Sue Boyer Dris, who is celebrating her special day today, July 4, 2012. Wishing you all the best in the year to come. May your days be filled with sunshine and beautiful colors and may your nights be filled with comforting dreams and wishes to come. Thank you so much for your laughter! Happy birthday!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Auntie Rita T. Cabrera! We love you and may you have many more blessings coming your way. Greetings coming out from Froilan, Katrina, and kids. Also from Keoni, Victoria, and Pumpkin Boy (Keoky).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 9th birthday to Vinysha Keana Basa, who is celebrating her special day today! We are so proud of all your accomplishments in school, keep it up. Enjoy your day and God bless. We love you! Greetings coming out from Uncle Shawn, Auntie Nessie, and Shalei Terrie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ALCOHOL TALKS

Various Tinian businesses' managers and supervisors attend the roundtable discussion on the sale of alcohol last June 28, 2012, at the JC Cafe-Tinian. The discussion was headed by the resident department head of the Department of Commerce, Jose P. Kiyoshi, standing left, and his staff.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner: Lydia Valera Parks

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LYDIA VALERA PARKS, Petitioner, vs.	) CIVIL ACTION) FCD-DI NO.) 12-0087
STEPHEN FRANCIS PARKS, Respondent.	) SUMMONS

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT, STEPHEN FRANCIS PARKS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the **PETITION FOR DIVORCE**, a copy of which is given to you herewith. You have Twenty (20) Days after service of this Summons upon you to file an answer with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewee, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. Your answer should be in writing. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. You are to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**, as soon as practicable after filing your answer to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

SO ORDERED on this 17th day of February, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court

2012 – 2013 Application For Free School Meals is now available at all public schools and at the Public School System Central Office

PUBLIC RELEASE STATEMENT REGARDING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Public School System Food and Nutrition Services Program today announced its policy for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Regardless of financial standing and participation in programs such as WIC or NAP, a new free school meal application must be completed and submitted each school year to receive free school meal benefits.

Meal prices for the 2012-2013 school year will remain the same as the previous year. Students may buy a subsidized school breakfast for $0.50. Additional breakfasts can be purchased for $2.00 at elementary schools and $2.40 at secondary schools. Students may purchase a school lunch for $0.75. Additional lunches can be purchased for $3.00 at elementary schools and $3.65 at secondary schools.

Application forms are now available at the PSS Food and Nutrition Office and are being sent to all public schools with a notice to parents or guardians. Applications are available at Tinian Elementary School and Rota Junior High School as well. To apply for free meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school or to the PSS Food and Nutrition Services office. The information provid¬ed on the applica¬tion will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applica¬tions may be submitted at any time during the school year. The application can be downloaded at http://www.cnmipss.org/state-level-programs/administrative-services/food-and-nutritional-servicess/

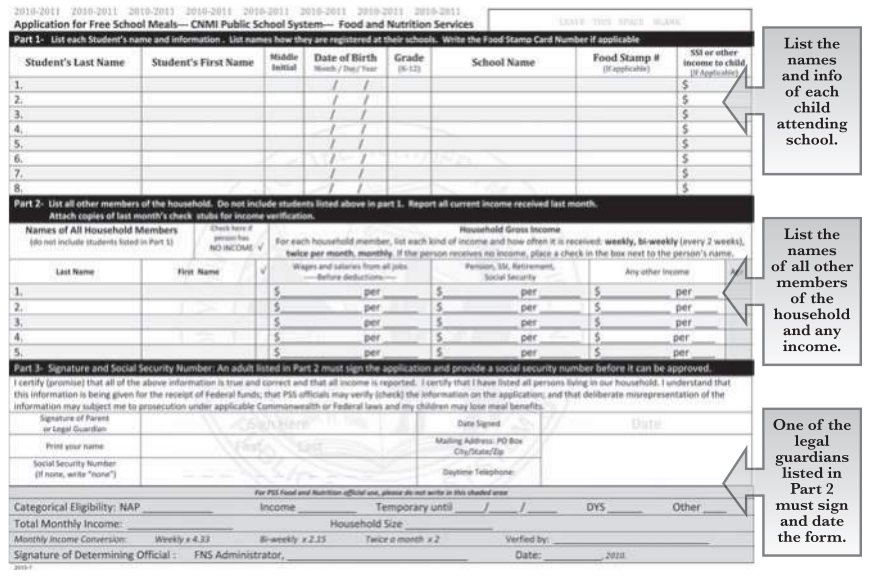
To obtain free meals for children for whose households receive Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, an adult member needs only to list the names of the school children, give a valid food stamp case number for each child, sign his/her name, list his/her social security number, and return the application to the school office. If any student listed does not have a valid food stamp number, then the entire application must be completed with accompanying income verification documents.

For the school officials to determine eligibility for free meals of households not receiving Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, the household must provide the following information requested on the application: names of all household members, and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. In lieu of a social security number, the household may indicate that the signer does not possess a social security number. Also, the income received by each household member must be provided by amount and source (wages, SSI, child support, etc.). For verification purposes, copies of the most recent check stubs must be included with the application. Failure to include these items will delay the processing of the application.

Under the provisions of the free meal policy, the PSS Food and Nutrition Services Manager will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to: Mr. Dale Roberts, PSS Food and Nutrition Services Program Manager located in government house 1254 located on Capital Hill, Saipan.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the FNS Office. Such changes may make the house¬hold eligible for reduced price meals or free meals if the household income falls at or below the IEG levels listed in the chart, and they may reapply at that time.

In most cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a household has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for free or reduced price meals, the household should complete an application for a family of one or contact the school for more information.



Application for Free School Meals— CNMI Public School System— Food and Nutrition Services

Part 1- List each Student's name and information. List names how they are registered at their schools. Write the Food Stamp Card Number if applicable

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth	Grade (K-12)	School Name	Food Stamp # (If applicable)	SSI or other income to child (If Applicable)
1.			/ /				$
2.			/ /				$
3.			/ /				$
4.			/ /				$
5.			/ /				$
6.			/ /				$
7.			/ /				$
8.			/ /				$

Part 2- List all other members of the household. Do not include students listed above in part 1. Report all current income received last month. Attach copies of last month's check stubs for income verification.

Names of All Household Members (do not include students listed in Part 1)		Household Gross Income		
Last Name	First Name	Wages and salaries from all jobs —Before deductions—	Pension, SSI, Retirement, Social Security	Any other income
1.		$ per	$ per	$ per
2.		$ per	$ per	$ per
3.		$ per	$ per	$ per
4.		$ per	$ per	$ per
5.		$ per	$ per	$ per

Part 3- Signature and Social Security Number: An adult listed in Part 2 must sign the application and provide a social security number before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all of the above information is true and correct and that all income is reported. I certify that I have listed all persons living in our household. I understand that this information is being given for the receipt of Federal funds; that PSS officials may verify (check) the information on the application; and that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may subject me to prosecution under applicable Commonwealth or Federal laws and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian — Sign Here — Date Signed — Date

Print your name — First Last — Mailing Address: PO Box City/State/Zip

Social Security Number (If none, write "none") — Daytime Telephone:

For PSS Food and Nutrition official use, please do not write in this shaded area

Categorical Eligibility: NAP _____ Income _____ Temporary until ____/____/____ DYS _____ Other ____

Total Monthly Income: _____ Household Size _____

Monthly Income Conversion: Weekly x 4.33 Bi-weekly x 2.15 Twice a month x 2 Verified by: _____

Signature of Determining Official: FNS Administrator, _____ Date: _____, 2010.

List the names and info of each child attending school.

List the names of all other members of the household and any income.

One of the legal guardians listed in Part 2 must sign and date the form.

2012-2013 Federal Income Guidelines (IEG) for Free Meal Eligibility. If your household income falls within these guidelines your children MAY be eligible to receive free school meals.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	2x per Month	Bi-weekly	Weekly
1	$ 14,521	$ 1,211	$ 606	$ 559	$ 280
2	19,669	1,640	820	757	379
3	24,817	2,069	1,035	955	478
4	29,965	2,498	1,249	1,153	577
5	35,113	2,927	1,464	1,351	676
6	40,261	3,356	1,678	1,549	775
7	45,409	3,785	1,893	1,747	874
8	50,557	4,214	2,107	1,945	973
Add'l member, Add……	+ 5,148	+ 429	+ 215	+ 198	+ 99

The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. PSS is authorized to release student free and school meal eligibility status only to persons directly connected with the administration and enforcement of federal or state educational programs.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official.

Children who received free meals last school year will receive free meals for up to 30 days after the opening of school on September 4, 2012. **To avoid delays in free school meal services due to processing, all applications should be completed and submitted to PSS FNS before September 21, 2012.**

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official. The PSS FNS office can be reached on Saipan: 664-3901 / 3902 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106/4105, Rota: 237-4046/4041/4042

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 157

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Proud to be American

Pride in moralistic circles is one of the deadly sins.

Proud to be American is a phrase that denotes one's relationship of trust to a particular political constitution called the United States of America. It is not, thereby, a sin, but it can be fatally deadly when clothed in limiting jingoistic buffoonery!

At 236 years old since 13 colonies in the New World declared independence from British rule, we remain an experiment on republican representation and democratic participation, the two major beats in the rhythm of our political life. The first harkens to the conservative impulse to be cautious, the second grows wild in liberal tendencies to innovate. They are by design in creative tension.

The breadth of America's vision is wide. It is inclusive of all colors of the rainbow, all shades of the prism, and all shapes of the kaleidoscope. America is a celebration of the wisdom of our past as well as a push to the realization of our wildest dreams: to lead where no one has ventured before.

Today marks the continued wrestling with the issues in between where we can say a humble "thanks" to the fife-and-drum of our political ancestors, and a resounding "yes" to the untested dreams of our communal longings. For yesterday is gone, and tomorrow will never come. We are always nestled in the lively contradictions and promises of today.

We shan't fail out of the fear of losing our gains; we prevail because we freely choose to build on the learning of the past and give shape to our intentional responses to the corporate challenges of today, embodying models we prescribe in our individual lives and communities.

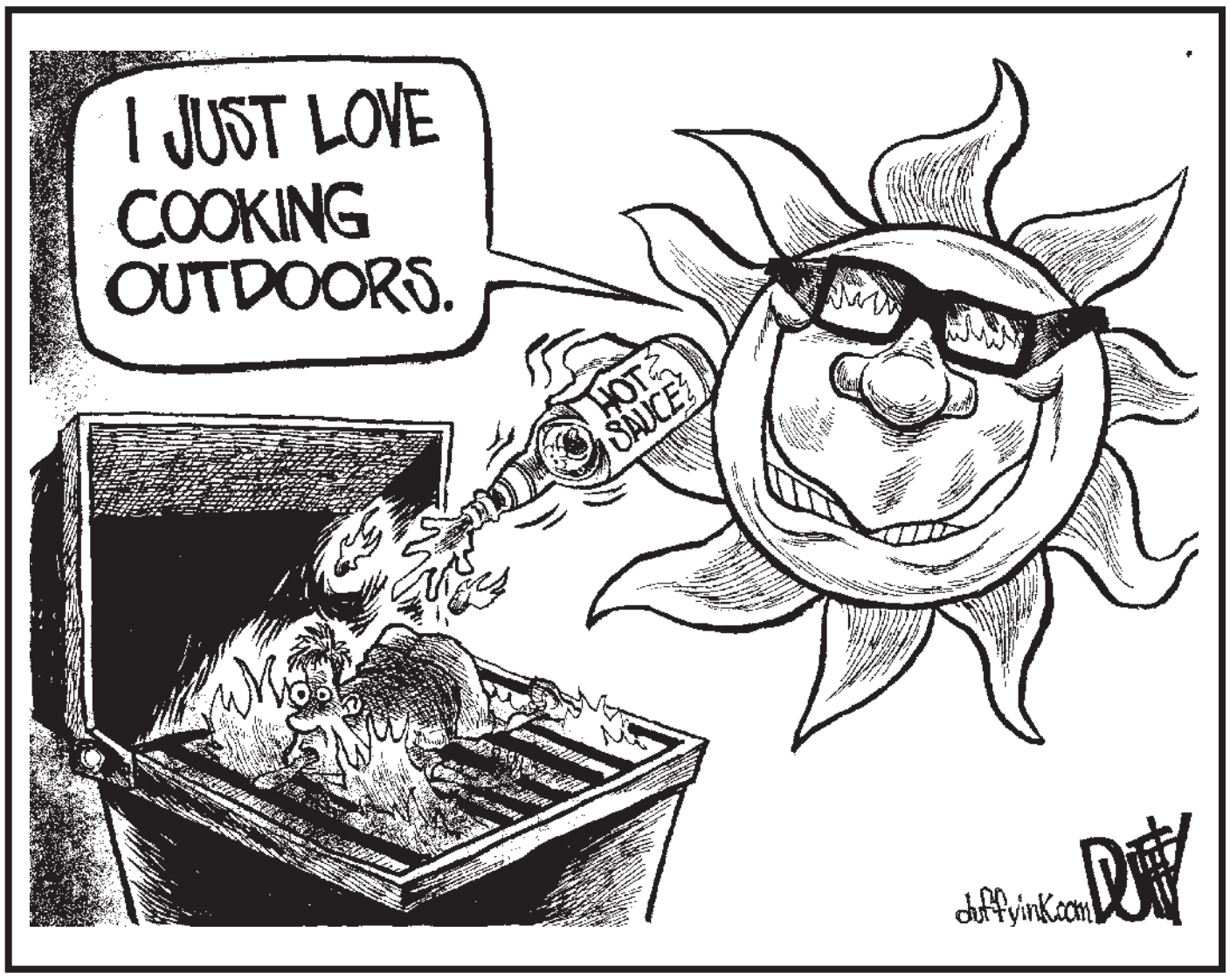
The Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands is the youngest member in the federated States that adheres to our covenant of union. We are represented but have limited voting participation in the legislative body of the Union.

Still, our strength comes from knowing what we know and continue learning how to learn. To date, we have latched on to the image of liberation as the theme of our Fourth of July. It is perhaps time that we leave that chapter to the folder of "thanks" and move on to the realm of the broad participation in the exercise of our freedom.

Our freedom can best be applied toward today's challenge of being glocal islands in a new world dispensation. The challenge of eco-democracy at the local community level knocks daily on our doorsteps.

Let us choose to give it form, and let the firework-lit skies accompany our choices.

© 2012, Saipan Tribune



The Fourth of July

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Nothing is more sacred in Pax Americana's symbol system than the Fourth of July. From the New England town style fife-and-drum corps of Concord to the grunts foisting the colors atop Iwo Jima, we settle in the comfort of settled-but-grown-stale communal memories.

Nothing challenges one's equilibrium more than the disillusionment that follows the shattering of a symbol. Pax Amerikana has become pox on our houses!

The courts have been edging our consciousness to rethink many things these days with conservative John Edwards turning out to be another conservative Earl Warren. The comfort of the lawn chair at the park to watch the fireworks, down a cool lemonade in a blistering hot summer evening, and munch on a slice of apple pie, if ever that was a reality, has become an image glowing in rank sentimentality.

Governance as ideally the process of deciding how a community supports itself, maintains order and tranquility, and enlivens one's emotional and intellectual well-being is now left with romantic idealists. Governance, in the U.S., even China and other parts of the world, has become a knee-jerk defensive response toward those perceived to do one harm. Or, in the case with the feds, those who want to stick their fingers into our pockets.

In our defensiveness, we have become inured to sting operations. When Paul Newman and Robert Redford played the 1930's confidence man of Chicago (the windy city by Lake Michigan) in the movie Sting, I was charmed. The movie was a cinematic feast utilizing all kinds of period motifs and technical tricks along with a perky piano rag tune and a Norman Rockwell feel to appeal widely in the box office. It did.

The notion of staging a great con to either right a wrong, or bring a stuffy villain or felon his comeuppance is an added plus we have made as homey American as motherhood and pizza. Having resided in Chicago, we are also familiar with how the feds got Al Capone.

We had always recognized the practice of the sting operation as a mainstay in American law enforcement. Stories of snitches and spies do make good films, but the realization that their employ is also a taken-for-granted modus operandi among public officials makes the Bush's policy of taking preemptive strikes on enemy regimes a legitimate defense, a frequently enforced procedure.

We are not above the con. I remember a lady in WorkHawaii who thought herself to have been wronged by the staff when she slipped on her entry through the front door and allegedly hurt herself. We took on her case, wanting to assist her in her legitimate complaints, only to find out that she had a history of making claims in court for which she was always rewarded since a payoff is less expensive than a prolonged litigation. So we maneuvered for a psychiatric visit and she managed to "hang" herself with her own words, mirroring an instability that the office's lawyers would have used had she proceeded with the prosecution of her claims.

Most recently, we recall how a Homeland Security officer conned some Chinese on Saipan to attempt a quiet slip in the night into Guam. Not to embarrass the government operative, the court judge who heard the case decided that there were no international waters traversed, and therefore the attempt was not about crossing borders. Guam and the CNMI are a contiguous area and in American sovereign territorial understanding, one is allowed to travel freely without legal constraints.

The recent news that ATF&E has conducted a gun-walking tactic to identify and charge drug cartel lords suspected of receiving guns bought in Arizona for illicit use in Mexico has gotten the Republican House in a tizzy. They voted to censure Attorney General Eric Holder for contempt in his refusal to turn over records of Operation Fast and Furious to a congressional oversight committee. Obama weighed in with an executive order to back the AG's refusal to turn over documents that go back to George W. Bush' watch. Suddenly, the hot presidential election is exploding fireworks that reek of stale alcohol and tobacco!

But as Filipino turned California activist, the late Carlos Bulosan literarily attested, America is in the heart. The America of the Fourth of July is neither a jingoistic celebration of a historical date, nor the idle dreaming of the privilege elite to maintain their sinecure in the realm of might, money, and the Arizona state of mind.

Patriotic America is in the heart of the many who act on survival instincts but still are naturally gracious to return a stranger's money purse with thousands of cash left on a trash bin while the man had a heart attack leaving a convenience store.

Nations are people deciding to act out their common vision and communal mission. It is not the objective constitution written by representatives nor the self-serving services of its leaders that defines the country. Rather, it is the behavior of ordinary people, with their varied sense experiences, intense emotional feelings, and complex mental cognition shown and articulated in either intentional commonality or tolerated diversity. America of the heart are real flesh-and-bones independent individuals in an interdependent society.

That's my Fourth of July. Does that make us proud, official stings notwithstanding? The hell, we are. Or, put another way, America, wart, woof, and wonder, all in one, is the present heaven in our heart, freely kept there! How does your heart throb this Fourth?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'And the band plays on...'

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Whenever an unsettling issue appears in the horizon of my mind, the subconscious heads into the dark and torched land of hopelessness looking for answers while humming a sentimental tune as I move about my daily chores. I'd probe and analyze with different takes. I'd sleep on it and hum some more the next day. Then I set a timeline to resolve it forthwith.

Coincidently, a fitting tune came into an unrehearsed medley, *Smile*. I hummed it and pulled lyrics in what my faltering memory could offer. Indeed, it's hard smiling when something's gone terribly wrong. Or hear of sad tidings of next of kin and friends who have recently faded. It instantly takes you back to familiar playground you used to frequent together long time ago.

But time is never in anybody's hand. That being said, may I humbly declare never mind it all. Smile! Move on! It eases the pain and gives you the opportunity to reset your clock to move on. Like I told my daughters when their mom died in 1985, life goes on! Smile. There's no turning back the hands of time. Perhaps this is the reason He placed our heads atop our shoulders facing forward.

Throughout the day, I bumped into another lively tune, *And The Band Plays On.* Fitting in the sense that in spite of our travails with bankruptcy, we recoil with faint resiliency and move forward in the midst of devastation never before seen in our developmental history. But nothing is going to derail us from our daily obligations. We face and take the myriad tasks as they descend, pummeling every fiber of our mind as we tinker with survival.

Is the NMI really broke? Hope the answer is in the negative. But then everything around us confirms it, i.e., no money for retirees, hospital, Public School System, etc. Maybe we are broke after all. No sir! You didn't read it here. Can't ignore, though, the skepticism morphing into cynicism among everyday folks. But smile, it's not the end of the world and the "band plays on." Have a good one!

■ ■ ■

Biba Kandidatu!@#!%&^%(*$!

And so you've decided to run for office, faithfully placing your snout in the filthy arse of the red, green or blue veterans. With your candidacy on the line, let's explore rational discussion on reviving investments on the islands or have you something better than the critical and resolute review of the apocalyptic economic trauma at home?

Hybrid queries: Would you invest your family's lifetime savings or use family land as collateral to put up a new business here today? What are your chances of surviving the high cost of utilities? Would you invest in a place that flaunts race-based "equal protection"? What's your educated understanding of the Byzantine and stifling laws that are now in the books versus investments?

Would you push for more ill-conceived taxes amidst a woefully poor business climate? Would you have the gall to ask the administration for its socio-economic plans for your review? Or would you be in collusion with them to fan your own version of illusion and delusion? What's your perception on issues where local and federal policies collide or intersect?

Fiscal paralysis: The issue before you is one of fiscal paralysis when exogenous investments (private foreign capital) took an exodus from the islands in recent past. They brought with them over $5 billion to $7 billion of their money that was once recycled locally. How do you address this devastating mess? How do we shift the dark clouds of uncertainty where the focus of our people sifts through a blurred future of job insecurity, foreclosure of the first family home, retirees losing their pension permanently; scholarship funds contracting as a result of a larger revenue contraction; lack of funds for healthcare, among others?

None of these issues are easy but I'd like to hear your answers premised on reality. The task is analogous to the biblical Moses escorting the Israelis out of Egypt. Ours is literally economic slavery. Would your plans bring us to brighter tomorrows after these dark days in what's now our hellish hole?

■ ■ ■

NMI's small businesses

It was in the early late '60s that I learned of small soba shops in Lali Fo'. I kept hearing how tasty the bowl of noodles was sprinkled with Spam or eggs in the two small shops. I finally had the opportunity to venture into it. There's something unique about it: It's family owned and sells soba, boiled eggs, soda pops, beer and cigarettes daily.

Gradually, more small businesses were established. The bulk of it is found in the hotel area in Garapan, from restaurants, gift shops to karaoke joints. Each offers a specialty from oriental cuisines to hip shirts, shorts and comfortable beach footwear. Interesting too that migrants from Japan, South Korea and elsewhere own most, it not, all of these small businesses.

Small as they may be, they've brought wealth into the islands. When they opened their doors, jobs were created for anyone who wished to work. They pay income and business taxes annually that go into the local treasury. It's money spent on basic services in the NMI.

As industrious as they may be, a lot of them have closed shop and headed elsewhere, taking with them their wealth while shutting down jobs as they leave island. These are jobs where local folks find the means to bring home the bacon.

Today, the means (jobs) are gone, including the bacon. I couldn't pin down how devastating this may be for the NMI. But our annual revenue was once a healthy $256 million per fiscal year reduced to $102 million, a whopping decrease of over $60-plus million. And so we must endure staring down Fiscal Cliff for quite some time to come.

Medicinal Laughter

Jay Leno: "In Chicago some anti-Mitt Romney protesters told reporters they're being paid to protest. They said they're being paid by Democrats to stand outside and chant anti-Romney slogans. Well, who says President Obama isn't creating any new jobs?"

Independence forever

By MATTHEW SPALDING
The Heritage Foundation

Matthew Spalding is vice president of American studies and director of the B. Kenneth Simon Center for Principles and Politics at The Heritage Foundation.

Many political documents are nothing more than statements of a moment. They're outdated almost as quickly as a daily newspaper.

Consider the ridiculous Post Huron statement, drafted 50 years ago by the far-left Students for a Democratic Society. "We are people of this generation, bred in at least modest comfort, housed now in universities, looking uncomfortably to the world we inherit," it begins. Well, since those students are now retirees, mostly living in "modest comfort" on Social Security, the rest of the statement is rendered meaningless to today's world.

Or there's the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, signed by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. President George W. Bush finally put that agreement to rest in 2002, more than a decade after the U.S.S.R. had disappeared.

As Americans get set to celebrate July Fourth, it's worth asking: Is the same thing true of the Declaration of Independence? It may be seen as nothing more than a list of complaints filed against a tyrannical monarch by a bunch of white landowners wearing wigs. Since George III and the colonists are long dead, their words no longer matter, right?

Wrong.

Indeed, the Declaration charged the king with 30 offenses, some legal and some matters of policy. Thus the colonists announced they were "absolved from all allegiance to the British crown and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

But the brilliance of the document is that the Founders didn't stop there. The Declaration's greater meaning was as a statement of the conditions of legitimate political authority and the proper ends of government. It proclaimed that political rule would, from then on, reside in the sovereignty of the people. "If the American Revolution had produced nothing but the Declaration of Independence," wrote the great historian Samuel Eliot Morrison, "it would have been worthwhile."

The ringing phrases of the document's famous second paragraph are a powerful synthesis of American constitutional and republican government theories. All men have a right to liberty as they are by nature equal. None are naturally superior, and deserve to rule, or inferior, and deserve to be ruled. Because men are endowed with these

rights, the rights are unalienable, which means that they cannot be given up or taken away. And because individuals equally possess these rights, governments derive their just powers from the consent of those governed. Government's purpose is to secure these fundamental rights. Although prudence tells us that governments should not be changed for trivial reasons, the people retain the right to alter or abolish government when it becomes destructive of these ends.

To be fair, the United States hasn't always lived up to the ideals of the Declaration. At the time it was signed, free blacks enjoyed citizenship in several states—at least five, according to Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Curtis, who researched the subject for his dissent in the 1857 Dred Scott decision.

But over the decades, the rights of blacks eroded. It took the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln and a massive Civil War finally to end slavery and begin delivering the promises of the Declaration. And there was more to come.

"When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir," is how Martin Luther King, Jr. put it in his "I Have a Dream" speech. That note has, thankfully, been completely redeemed.

The Declaration will always apply, because its appeal was not to any conventional law or political contract but to the equal rights possessed by all men and "the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and nature's God" entitled them.

An aged John Adams was asked to prepare a statement on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and he delivered two words that still convey our great hope every Fourth of July: "Independence Forever."

May the ringing phrases of the Declaration of Independence always speak to all those who strive for liberty and seek to vindicate the principles of self-government.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

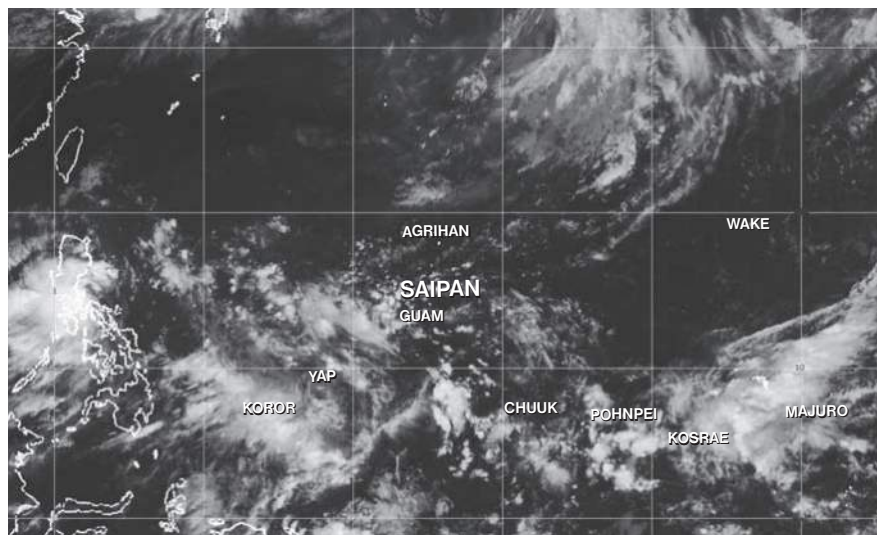
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼50
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲88	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼72
London	Showers	▲73	▼59
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲55	▼42
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼73
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Paris	Showers	▲77	▼60
Pusan	Cloudy	▲82	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼68
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼73
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲84	▼71
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲98	▼78

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 13N130E to just north of Yap at 11N140E to end at EQ151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen over Palau and south and west of Yap or within 150 miles of a line from 9N131E to 5N140E. Isolated thunderstorms are found farther south between EQ and 3N from 130E to 135E. A weak surface trough stretches northward from 11N141E to 17N143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present west to southwest of Guam within 200 miles of a line from 16N137E to 11N144E. A surface trough stretches northward from EQ160E to 13N153E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near Chuuk and Pohnpei between 3N and 9N from 146E to 160E and east of the Marianas within 100 miles of a line from 11N153E to 14N150E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kosrae state and over the Marshall Islands or south of a line from 9N161E to 14N180. An upper-level low is centered east of Wake Island at 18N170E. A few showers and thunderstorms associated with the low are occurring east of Wake or between 16N and 20N from 167E to 171E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
7:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
10:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:15 PM	6:00 AM
Thursday	8:06 PM	7:02 AM
Friday	8:53 PM	8:00 AM
Saturday	9:36 PM	8:56 AM
Sunday	10:16 PM	9:49 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

11th 'Olympics of Pacific arts' opens in Solomon Islands

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Thousands braved the sweltering heat for the very colorful and culturally charged opening of the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts in Honiara, Solomon Islands yesterday.

To open this major regional event, dubbed the "Olympics of Pacific arts and culture" by local media, delegations from 19 countries as well as the Solomon Islands' nine provinces marched from the town center to Lawson Tama Stadium in full national regalia, where they presented traditional song and dance as well as gifts to the Solomon Islands Governor General Sir Frank Kabui.

Earlier the same day, Solomon Islands, which is hosting the festival for the first time, presented traditional gifts to visiting countries at an early morning ceremony on the beach that began with spectacular fireworks, followed by *vaka* (double-hulled canoes) from several countries and *tomoko* (war canoes) from Solomon Islands' Western Province pulling ashore and ending with rousing performances by delegations.

ON THE NET
www.festival-pacific-arts.org.sb/index.php/live-stream.html

The next two weeks will see Honiara transformed into a "mini Pacific," to quote Solomon Islands Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo, who officially opened the festival.

Reflecting on the festival's theme, *Culture in harmony with nature*, Lilo said: "I am confident that enhancing understanding of cultures amongst the people of the pacific will help in social development, peace and prosperity and at the same time, conserve the natural environment for our survival."

He added: "Twenty years after the UN Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, scientists have sufficient evidence to inform us that the earth has reached its planetary limits or abilities to contain global warming and climate changes. Against this, it is essential for us to explore with haste and progress appropriate actions and identify key strategic areas to save and protect our ocean and land for our generation and future generations. Some of the solutions for these challenges are in the knowledge of our cultures."

Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, director-general of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and a Solomon Islander himself, echoed those sentiments in his opening address, saying: "The Festival provides an opportunity to reflect on the critical importance of culture in the sustainable development of our nations.

"Indeed, culture is just as important as economic and social development and the sustainable management of natural resources. It is the glue that underpins the fundamental values of heritage, knowledge, creativity, diversity and identity that define our character as people and citizens of our respective nations."

Alongside the cultural components such as dance, music, art, craft and fashion taking place at the festival, a number of important high-level meetings are being held to examine some of the questions facing the region's cultural sector.

Founded by SPC, the Festival of Pacific Arts this year marks its 40th anniversary of (the first festival was held in Suva in 1972). SPC currently hosts the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture (the festival's governing body), which facilitates the organization of the festival.

SPC's Regional Media Center is coordinating live daily broadcasts of the festival's events to the region, which can also be viewed online at www.festival-pacific-arts.org.sb/index.php/live-stream.html

The organization's interpretation and translation team is supporting the bilingual meetings of the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture and the second meeting of the Ministers of Culture for the region. ***(Secretariat of the Pacific Community)***

AQUACULTURE TOUR NMC

Claus Bier, far right, of the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service explains how shrimp is raised during a tour of NMC-CREES' aquaculture facilities organized for the president and representatives from Shanghai Oceanic University. The visitors from the university met with NMC president Sharon Y. Hart and other college officials to learn more about NMC-CREES' work with the aquaculture industry in the CNMI and to discuss a possible partnership in the future.

4-H 2012 Summer Fun Day Camp

The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service will host the 4-H 2012 Summer Fun Day Camp from Mondays through Thursdays between July 16 to Aug. 10 (8am to 12pm).

The aim of the 4-H 2012 Summer Fun Day Camp is to provide hands-on activities that will help participants establish real life goals to become responsible, productive citizens while having fun in the process.

4-H is a youth development program administered through the Cooperative Extension System of 109 land-grant universities in the U.S. and supports more than six million young people with programs designed to prepare the youth to step up to challenges in their community.

The camp, which will be held in Building G of the NMC As Terlaje campus, will focus on agriculture and will be open to children between the ages of 8 to 12. Parents and legal guardians may register their children for the camp from July 9 through July 13. The fee for the camp is $50 and space is limited. To register or to get more information, contact Polly Omechelang at 234-5498 Ext. 1712. ***(NMC)***

Summer internships for high school juniors, seniors

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service is encouraging incoming high school juniors and seniors for school year 2012-2013 to apply for its four-week summer internship program.

The internship will begin on July 23, 2012 and end on Aug. 17, 2012. As part of the internship program, students will explore and learn about the fields of agriculture and family consumer sciences. NMC-CREES has different divisions including entomology, plant pathology, nutrition, food quality and safety, 4H and outreach.

Internship positions vary throughout the three NMC-CREES offices and facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Note that applicants must also be a U.S. citizen and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

The deadline to apply for the internship is no later than 4:30pm on Thursday, July 12, 2012. Application forms are available for download at http://crees.org, or may be picked up at the NMC-CREES offices in Building F at the NMC Saipan campus, and at the administrative offices of the NMC Rota and Tinian Instructional Sites.

For more information, contact Joaquin Deleon Guerrero at NMC-CREES at 234-5498 Ext. 1707.

The internship program is made possible by funds from the ADAP Professional Development Project and CARIPAC Project/Resident Instruction. ***(NMC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), would like to notify the general public that DPW will be conducting a Public Information Meeting on Saipan for the Federal –Aid Highway Program, Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for Fiscal Year 2012 through 2015. The Federal-Aid Highway Program is a formula grant program that the CNMI Government receives annually from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The goal of these Public Meetings is to provide citizens with a better understanding of the transportation decision making process, and encourage community participation in addressing current and future transportation needs such as roads, bicycle and pedestrian designated facilities, safety, and maintenance of transportation facilities. The public meetings will take place as follows:

Saipan – Multi-Purpose Center July 10, 2012 6:00PM

Advance copies of the TTIP can be obtained from the Department of Public Works – Office of the Secretary located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Commercial Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. For more information call 235-9570/5827.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

Business

GlaxoSmithKline to pay $3B for health fraud

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline will pay $3 billion in fines—the largest health care fraud settlement in U.S. history—for criminal and civil violations involving 10 drugs that are taken by millions of people.

The Justice Department said Monday that GlaxoSmithKline PLC will plead guilty to promoting popular antidepressants Paxil and Wellbutrin for unapproved uses. The company also will plead guilty to failing to report to the government for seven years some safety problems with diabetes drug Avandia, which was restricted in the U.S. and banned in Europe after it was found in 2007 to sharply increase the risks of heart attacks and congestive heart failure.

In addition to the fine, Glaxo agreed to resolve civil liability for promoting Paxil, Wellbutrin, asthma drug Advair and two lesser-known drugs for unapproved uses. The company also resolved accusations that it overcharged the government-funded Medicaid program for some drugs, and that it paid kickbacks to doctors to prescribe several drugs including Flovent for asthma and Valtrex for genital herpes.

This Wednesday, April 28, 2010, file photo. shows the GlaxoSmithKline offices in London.

AP

Sir Andrew Witty, Glaxo's CEO, expressed regret Monday and said the company has learned "from the mistakes that were made."

This is the latest in a string of settlements related to drug companies putting profits ahead of patients. In recent years, the government has cracked down on drugmakers' tactics, which include marketing medicines for unapproved uses. While doctors are allowed to prescribe medicines for any use, drugmakers cannot promote them in any way that is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"Let me be clear, we will not tolerate health care fraud," Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole said Monday during a news conference at the Justice Department in Washington.

Glaxo is scheduled to plead guilty to the criminal charges and have the settlement approved at a hearing Thursday in U.S. District Court in Boston. In addition to the $3 billion penalty—which includes a $1 billion criminal fine and forfeiture and $2 billion to resolve civil claims—Glaxo agreed to be monitored by the government for five years to ensure that it complies with marketing and other rules.

The case against Glaxo was originally brought in January 2003 by two whistleblowers, former Glaxo sales representatives Greg Thorpe and Blair Hamrick. In January 2011, the federal government joined in the case.

Prosecutors said Glaxo illegally promoted Paxil for treating depression in children from 1998 to 2003, even though it wasn't approved for anyone under age 18. The company also promoted Wellbutrin from 1999 through 2003 for weight loss, sexual dysfunction, substance addictions and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, although it was only approved for treatment of major depression.

Airbus to build 1st US assembly plant in Alabama

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—European aerospace giant Airbus will build its first airplane factory in the U.S., aiming to compete better against archrival Boeing in the battle to dominate the global aviation industry.

The Mobile, Ala., factory—due to start up in 2015—is expected to employ 1,000 people when it reaches full production two years later. Airbus hopes the plant will lower costs and improve its chances of winning business from the U.S. military. Last year, Boeing beat out Airbus' parent for a major Air Force contract.

"We needed to be visible in the States under the Airbus flag," Airbus President and CEO Fabrice Bregier said. The new $600 million plant will make A320 passenger jets, which compete head-to-head with Boeing's 737. Those planes are the minivans of the airline world—widely-used people-haulers generally flown on short- and medium-haul trips. They generally carry about 150 passengers.

North America is the biggest single market for that type of plane, Airbus executives said, and they want more of it. Boeing's 737 has an advantage now, with Southwest and Alaska Airlines buying only 737s. Current A320 customers include US Airways and Frontier Airlines. American Airlines handed Airbus a victory when it ordered 260 of the planes last year.

Airbus, based in Toulouse, France, cranks out more than 400 of those jets a year, more than any of its other planes.

The new plant advances the company's strategy of expanding production outside its home base. The Mobile operation will join assembly plants in Toulouse, France; Hamburg, Germany; and Tianjin, China.

Labor costs are likely to be lower in Alabama, where union organizing is more difficult than in Europe or in other parts of the U.S. Bregier said cost savings were not the main goal for the Alabama plant, but added, "Clearly we selected a competitive environment."

Building in Alabama helps Airbus cut foreign-exchange costs, as well. Most A320s are built in Europe, so costs are in euros. But planes are sold in dollars because most aviation lending happens in dollars. That cost disadvantage will shrink if Airbus pays to assemble at least some of its planes in dollars.

The deal should help Airbus politically in the U.S., said sales chief John Leahy, in an interview.

US manufacturing shrinks for first time in 3 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. manufacturing shrank in June for the first time in nearly three years, adding to signs that economic growth is weakening.

Production and exports declined, and the number of new orders plunged, according to a monthly report released Monday by the Institute for Supply Management.

The slowdown comes as U.S. employers have scaled back hiring, consumers have turned more cautious, Europe faces a recession and manufacturing has slowed in big countries like China.

"This is not good," said Dan Greenhaus, chief economic strategist at BTIG, an institutional brokerage. Though the report "does not mean recession for the broader economy, it is still a terribly weak number."

The trade group of purchasing managers said its index of manufacturing activity fell to 49.7. That's down from 53.5 in May. And it's the lowest reading since July 2009, a month after the Great Recession officially ended. Readings below 50 indicate contraction.

Economists said the manufacturing figures were consistent with growth at an annual rate of 1.5 percent or less. That would be down from the January-March quarter's already tepid annual pace of 1.9 percent.

"Our forecast that the U.S. will grow by around 2 percent this year is now looking a bit optimistic," said Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics.

Stocks fell sharply after the report was released at 10 a.m. But investors appeared to shake off the bad manufacturing news by the end of the day. The Dow Jones industrial average recovered most of its early losses to close down just 8.7 points at 12,871. And broader indexes ended the day up.

Most economists aren't yet predicting another recession. Though the ISM report suggests manufacturing is contracting, it typically takes a sustained reading below 43 to signal the economy isn't growing.

Still, U.S. manufacturing, which has helped drive growth since the recession ended, is faltering at a precarious time.

Americans have pulled back on spending, which drives roughly 70 percent of growth. Europe's economy is likely in recession, which has hurt U.S. exports.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Microsoft takes $6.2B hit to account for ad woes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft is absorbing a $6.2 billion charge to reflect that one of the biggest deals in its 37-year history turned out to be a dud. The non-cash charge announced Monday could saddle Microsoft Corp. with a loss for its fiscal fourth quarter ended in June. Analysts polled by FactSet had predicted Microsoft would earn about $5.3 billion for the period. The company hasn't suffered a quarterly loss during the past 20 years, according to its website. Microsoft, which is based in Redmond, Wash., is scheduled to release its latest quarterly results on July 19.

Feds propose $3.7M penalty for Mich. oil spill

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—Federal regulators proposed a $3.7 million civil penalty Monday against the Canadian owner of a pipeline that ruptured in 2010, dumping more than 800,000 gallons of oil into a southwestern Michigan river. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said the penalty against Enbridge Inc. would be the largest it has imposed. In a letter to the company, the agency listed 24 violations of hazardous liquid pipeline regulations, including failure to fix corrosion problems in the damaged pipe joint discovered as far back as 2004. It also said the company had failed to detect the rupture for 17 hours after it happened during a scheduled shutdown July 25, 2010. Instead, Enbridge personnel twice restarted the line despite receiving multiple alarms and "indications of abnormal operating conditions" in its control center.

Kodak wins OK to auction digital patents

NEW YORK (AP)—Kodak says bankruptcy court has approved an auction of its imaging patent portfolios over the objections of Apple and FlashPoint Technologies, giving the photography pioneer clarity on ownership claims. The Rochester, N.Y., company announced a year ago it was looking to turn 1,100 digital imaging patents into ready money. The patents then represented about 10 percent of Kodak's total portfolio. The auction is expected to be held in early August, Kodak says. It says it will still seek dismissal of the "baseless" Apple and FlashPoint claims this month.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,871.39	1,365.51	2,951.23
-8.70	+3.35	+16.18
-0.07%	+0.25%	+0.55%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9746	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7552	Philippine Peso	41.8300
British Pound	0.6370	Indian Rupee	55.0350	Singapore Dollar	1.2635
Canadian Dollar	1.0158	Indonesian Rupiah	9,392.0	South Korean Won	1,138.98
Chinese Yuan	6.3552	Japanese Yen	79.7165	Swiss Franc	0.9537
Euro	0.7939	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1565	Taiwan Dollar	29.8610
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2434	Thailand Baht	31.5300

Nation

Across eastern US, with no power, people struggle

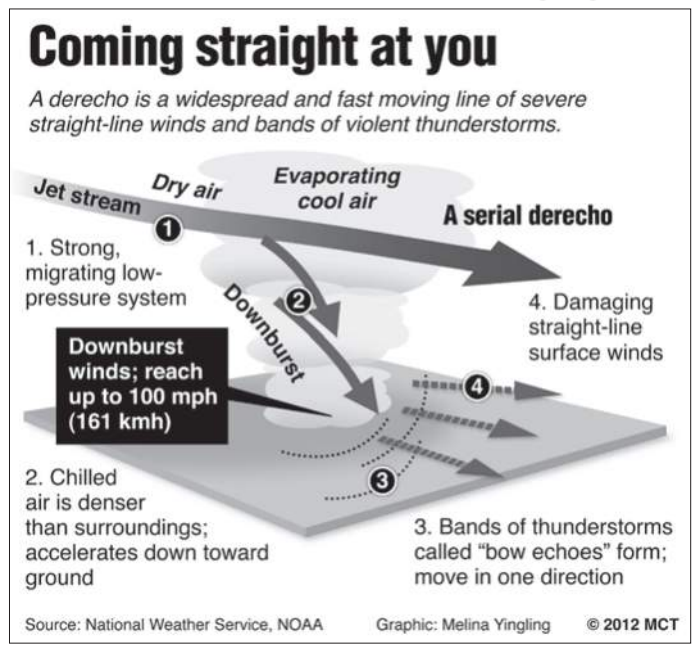
SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP)—Across the eastern U.S., people are struggling through a third day of sweltering heat with no electricity. Their groceries are long gone, either used up in weekend cookouts or left to spoil in useless refrigerators. The usual frozen treats people turn to on a hot summer day have melted away.

The basics of daily life are difficult: Washing machines won't work without electricity, leading to some creative wardrobes. Bottled water has gone from luxury to necessity for people whose underground wells aren't pumping.

Storms that swept across the area late Friday left 22 people dead, and nearly 1.8 million people remained without power Monday evening. Utility companies say it could be days before the lights are on again.

AP

Robert St. Denny plays with his daughter, 9-month-old Lily St. Denny, as his wife Kelly Reyes sits at right, at a Red Cross shelter at Northwestern High School gym Saturday, June 30, 2012, in Hyattsville, Md.


Coming straight at you
A derecho is a widespread and fast moving line of severe straight-line winds and bands of violent thunderstorms.
Jet stream
Dry air
Evaporating cool air
A serial derecho
1. Strong, migrating low-pressure system
Downburst
Downburst winds; reach up to 100 mph (161 kmh)
4. Damaging straight-line surface winds
2. Chilled air is denser than surroundings; accelerates down toward ground
3. Bands of thunderstorms called "bow echoes" form; move in one direction
Source: National Weather Service, NOAA
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2012 MCT

'THEY NEED HELP'

Not a whole lot was functioning at the Springvale Terrace nursing home and senior center in Silver Spring: No air conditioning, no cable, no automatic doors for elderly residents using walkers who otherwise struggle to navigate them.

Window air-conditioner units were brought in to cool rooms, and director Antonio Hill and his staff had to empty spoiling food from refrigerators and freezers in nursing units—sometimes over the loud objections of residents who insisted their melting ice cream was still good.

Generators provided electricity in common rooms, where TVs showed movies on old VHS tapes, including the 1932 classic "Grand Hotel."

Residents coped as best they could. Ninety-three-year-old Margaret Foster and 95-year-old Helen Ofsharick passed the time outside.

"You wouldn't want to live this way more than a day or so," Foster said. "There are sick people here, or people who don't think too well. They need help."

FIRST TO GO DOWN, LAST TO COME BACK

Great Falls is one of the wealthiest areas in the nation, in Virginia just outside Washington, with mansions spread across secluded, wooded lots. But because the city is so sparsely populated, it's not a top priority for crews trying to get as many people back online as quickly as possible.

"Great Falls always seems to be the first to go down and the last one to come back up," said resident Patrick Muir, a patent attorney who was raiding water bottles from his powerless office to supply his home, which is on a well that was not operating. His 8-year-old daughter Mary accompanied him, speaking hopefully of a beach trip to escape the heat. Dad said it was under consideration.

Most of the community remained without power Monday.

A Safeway supermarket tried to remain open with a limited power supply and handed out free bags of dry ice. But the air inside was stale. Shopping carts with spoiled food, buzzing with flies, sat outside the store.

PLAYING WITH FLASHLIGHTS

When the storms first rolled through Ohio on Friday, Natalie Driscoll's electricity went out. It came back a few hours later, only to be knocked out again Sunday when another storm swept through.

"My 2-year-old thought it was kind of fun at first," said Driscoll, the mother of two children. "She got to play with the new flashlights" that the family bought after the first outage.

Mom wasn't so amused. She packed her bags and took the children from their Springfield, Ohio, home to stay with her parents in Upper Sandusky, about two hours away. Driscoll also loaded two coolers with food, hoping to save it from certain spoilage in the family's freezer and refrigerator. Her husband stayed behind at their home.

"It looked like somebody pulled a Christmas tree down and laid it in our yard, instead of putting it by the curb," said Driscoll, 28. "Thankfully, nothing hit our house."

'I AM NOT A SUMMER PERSON'

After Hugh Neill and his wife, Diana, lost power late Friday, they spent the night at home before deciding against a hot and sticky weekend in Washington without electricity.

"I am not a summer person," said Diana.

"She is not a summer person, echoed Hugh, 77 and retired.

So they got rid of all their food—"total refrigerator, total freezer, total everything," Diana explained—and booked a hotel room in nearby Crystal City, Va. They've eaten their meals out and have made periodic trips home to gather belongings. The only hiccup came when they had to rent a car because Diana's car, the one with air conditioning, is still in the shop.

Although their electricity appeared to have been restored by Monday afternoon, the couple was not taking any chances and planned another night at their hotel.

LABYRINTH

Author Thompson, a retired truck driver, said he's had to navigate a labyrinth of roads to get patients to the Baltimore VA Medical Center. He's a volunteer who drives people to their appointments.

"It's been a royal pain today because going out, trying to pick patients up, there are roads closed, lights out, trees still down all over the place. You have to back track all over the place just to pick people up," said Thompson, 54.

His electricity was back on by Saturday night, so he had to cope without air conditioning for only about 24 hours. How did he do it?

"Sweat, that's basically it," Thompson said. A neighbor borrowed a generator and ran power cords to nearby houses so folks in the neighborhood could run their refrigerators and save their groceries.

IS IT BACK YET?

Leo Welsh repeatedly dialed the number to his Columbus, Ohio, home on Monday, hoping to hear the sweet sound of an answering machine indicating his electricity had been restored. By lunchtime, he resigned himself to the fact there was no answer. "Getting worked up about it is not going to make the power come on any sooner," said Welsh, 33, a nursing home administrator.

The first outage at his Columbus home, following winds of up to 80 mph on Friday, lasted only about 20 hours while other Ohio residents were told they might be in the dark for days. The second round of storms Sunday knocked out the lights throughout his neighborhood, including the ones that had remained on at the house next door, and Welsh figured it must be his turn to wait. So he packed the food from his refrigerator and the food his mother-in-law had brought over when her power went out, carted it to the extra refrigerator at his brother's place in Grandview and patiently addressed his 3-year-old son's questions about when someone might be coming by to fix the TV.

IN SEARCH OF WI-FI

University of Maryland Latin American Studies Professor Sandra Cypess traveled four miles with her laptop computer from her dark Potomac, Md., home to a Panera Bread store in Rockville to find the restaurant's power on, but its Wi-Fi down. Cypess said she'd have to find another place to do her work, annotating some book chapters.

"Yesterday we had to go to Virginia, to a friend who had just gotten his power back, and we brought some off our frozen food that still hadn't spoiled. He took us in and we used the internet and worked there for a while."

She said her tree-filled neighborhood often loses power during storms.

"It's not a one-time occurrence," she said. "Winter storms, summer storms, it happens."

Fatal crash grounds key part of firefighting fleet

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—The deadly crash of a military cargo plane fighting a South Dakota wildfire forced officials to ground seven other Air Force air tankers, removing critical firefighting aircraft from the skies during one of the busiest and most destructive wildfire seasons ever to hit the West.

The C-130 from an Air National Guard wing based in Charlotte, N.C., was carrying a crew of six and fighting a 6.5-square-mile blaze in the Black Hills of South Dakota when it crashed Sunday, killing at least one crew member and injuring others.

President Barack Obama offered thoughts and prayers to the crew and their families. "The men and women battling these terrible fires across the West put their lives on the line every day for their fellow Americans," he said in a statement.

The crash cut the number of large air tankers fighting this summer's outbreak of wildfires by one-third.

The military put the remaining seven C-130s on an "operational hold," keeping them on the ground indefinitely. That left 14 federally contracted heavy tankers in use until investigators gain a better understanding of what caused the crash.

"You've basically lopped off eight air tankers immediately from your inventory, and that's going to make it tougher to fight wildfires," said Mike Archer, who distributes a daily newsletter of wildfire news.

"And who knows how long the planes will be down?" he said, adding that investigators will take time to make their conclusions.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mich. grandma to be tried in teen's shooting death

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—With her grandson's terrified screams filling a suburban Detroit courtroom, 74-year-old Sandra Layne sat in a jail jumpsuit with tears in her eyes Monday as she listened to the teen telling a 911 operator he'd been shot by his grandmother. Tapes of the emergency call were played publicly for the first time at the hearing, during which Layne was ordered to stand trial on murder and weapons charges in the death of 17-year-old Jonathan Hoffman. Layne, petite with graying red hair, was acting in self-defense, her attorney later told reporters. "I've just been shot. My grandma shot me. I'm going to die. Help," Jonathan yelled into a cellphone on May 18 from the condo he shared with his grandparents in West Bloomfield Township, an upscale suburb.

Paterno family: Release all emails and records

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Joe Paterno's family has called on Pennsylvania's attorney general and former FBI Director Louis Freeh to release all emails and records related to their investigations into the Penn State child sex-abuse scandal, saying a leaker or leakers have used selective emails to "smear" the late coach and university officials. Family lawyer Wick Sollers' statement Monday followed news reports of leaked emails between administrators about graduate assistant Mike McQueary's 2001 account of an encounter between former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky and a boy in the showers. CNN reported that one email outlined a change in plans among administrators after Athletic Director Tim Curley spoke to Paterno.

Asia

NKorea ships arms, violating sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—North Korea continues to violate U.N. sanctions by attempting to ship arms to Syria and Myanmar and illegally importing luxury goods, according to a long-awaited report by a U.N. experts panel.

No violations involving nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or ballistic missiles were mentioned in the 74-page report to the Security Council committee monitoring sanctions, published Friday.

The report also said new KN-08 ballistic missiles seen at an April military parade celebrating the centenary of founder Kim Il Sung's birth could be fake. The missiles were carried by a new, larger transporter that the Panel of Experts is investigating.

The Security Council imposed sanctions against North Korea after its first nuclear test in 2006 and stepped up sanctions after its second test in 2009 to try to derail the country's rogue nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

The panel found "ample evidence" that North Korea continues to defy measures in the resolutions, citing "elaborate techniques" used in several interceptions of banned goods.

"Nevertheless, although the resolutions have not caused the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to halt its banned activities, they appear to have slowed them and made illicit transactions significantly more difficult and expensive," the report said.

A diplomat at North Korea's UN mission, who would not give his name, rejected the findings.

"In principle, we don't recognize the Panel of Experts, because we reject the resolution it was founded on and have never acknowledged the group's reports," he said.

The report cited several cases of attempted shipments of arms-related material to Syria and Myanmar, including a French report about the Nov. 2010 interception of a shipment containing brass discs and copper rods used to manufacture artillery munitions and aluminum alloy tubes useable for making rockets.

A shipment headed for Syria seized in 2007 was transshipped through Dalian, China, and Port Kelang, Malaysia. It contained electrical and thermal switches and metallic alloys.

Illegally imported luxury goods included tobacco, bottles of sake, second-hand pianos and several second-hand Mercedes Benz cars, the report said. Several shipments originated in Japan and reached North Korea via Dalian, China, according to Japan.

Monsoon floods kill 81 in India's northeast

GAUHATI, India (AP)—The worst monsoon floods in a decade to hit a remote northeastern Indian state have killed more than 80 people and forced around 2 million to leave their homes, officials said Monday.

Nearly half a million people are living in relief camps that have been set up across Assam state, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told journalists in Gauhati, Assam's capital. The rest of the 2 million displaced have moved in with relatives or are living in the open, sheltering under tarpaulin sheets.

Assam officials say 81 people have been killed over the past four days. Most of them were swept away when the mighty Brahmaputra River overflowed its banks and flooded villages. Sixteen people were buried in landslides triggered by the rains.

At least 11 people were missing in six districts, the state disaster management agency said in its bulletin.

Air force helicopters were dropping food packets and drinking water to marooned people, Singh said after surveying the flood-hit districts.

Army soldiers used boats to rescue villagers from rooftops of flooded homes.

Teams of doctors have opened health clinics in the 770 relief camps that had been set up across Assam, one of India's main tea-growing states. The hilly tea growing areas have not been affected, but lower rice fields have been washed away.

Thousands of cattle have perished after being swept away by the raging water or getting stuck in the mud. The stench of rotting animal carcasses was adding to the woes of the people in tents at the relief camps, officials said.

In the worst-hit Dhemaji district, raging waters of the Brahmaputra River swept away entire villages.

Officials said the entire Majuli island, one of the world's largest river islands, was awash as water levels in the Brahmaputra rose above the danger level.

"This is one of the worst floods to hit Assam," Singh said. He announced the national government would give immediate assistance of 5 billion rupees ($90 million) to the state.

Railway workers were working round the clock to restore train services disrupted after railway tracks became submerged in flood water.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Dozens quit Japan's ruling party in blow to PM

TOKYO (AP)—A powerful politician and dozens of his followers quit Japan's ruling party on Monday and are likely to form their own rival bloc, dealing a blow to Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda. Ichiro Ozawa and 49 other lawmakers submitted their resignations to the Democratic Party of Japan, and others could follow later, party officials said. Thirty-eight are members of the lower house of Parliament, where a loss of 11 more seats would end the ruling party's majority and could force Noda to call new elections. Ozawa, 70, played a key role in the party's rise to power in 2009, defeating the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party. He has been a vocal critic of Noda's plan to double Japan's sales tax to 10 percent by 2015.

2 suspects dead in China plane hijack attempt

BEIJING (AP)—Two men who allegedly tried to hijack a plane in far west China by battering the cockpit door with a crutch and trying to set off explosives have died from injuries sustained in a fight with passengers and crew, state media said Monday. Earlier reports said six Uighur men were arrested Friday following the foiled hijack attempt in Xinjiang region. Four crew members were injured in the tussle. Xinjiang is home to a large population of minority Uighurs (pronounced WEE'-gurs), but is ruled by China's ethnic majority Hans. There have been clashes between authorities and Uighurs resentful of government controls over their religion and culture. An overseas rights group says the incident wasn't a hijacking attempt but an in-flight brawl over a seat dispute.

7 killed in suicide attack in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber blew up a car packed with explosives near the gates of a university in southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing at least seven people, officials said. Ahmad Javed Faisal, the spokesman for the governor of Kandahar province, said the blast near the entrance to Kandahar University also wounded 23 people. He said all of the casualties were civilians. Attacks in Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban, have been on the rise. Earlier Monday, a spokesman for the eastern province of Logar said a NATO airstrike killed three civilians in the province. A spokesman for the coalition says initial reports do not suggest any civilian deaths.

World

Syrian opposition pushes to unite

CAIRO (AP)—The Arab League chief urged exiled Syrian opposition figures to unite at a meeting Monday as a new Western effort to force President Bashar Assad from power faltered. Another 85 soldiers, including a general, fled to Turkey in a growing wave of defections.

Turkey's state-run Andolou news agency said the group of defectors also included 14 other officers, ranging from one colonel to seven captains. It is one of the largest groups of Syrian army defectors to cross into Turkey since the uprising against Assad began.

The stakes are high for calming the crisis in Syria, which NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen on Monday called "one of the gravest security challenges the world faces today."

But more than one year into the Syrian revolt, the opposition is still hobbled by the infighting and fractiousness that have prevented the movement from gaining the kind of political traction it needs to present a credible alternative to Assad.

"There is an opportunity before the conference of Syrian opposition today that must be seized, and I say and repeat that this opportunity must not be wasted under any circumstance," Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby told nearly 250 members of the Syrian opposition at the opening of the two-day conference in Cairo.

AP

In this image made from amateur video released by the Ugarit News and accessed Monday, July 2, 2012, black smoke leaps the air from shelling near a mosque in Talbiseh, the central province of Homs, Syria.

"The sacrifices of the Syrian people are bigger than us and more valuable than any narrow differences or factional disputes," he said.

Nasser Al-Kidwa, deputy to U.N. special envoy Kofi Annan, said that unity of purpose and vision was "not an option, but a necessity if the opposition wants to bolster its popular support and trust and increase international support."

The divisions are tied to issues at the heart of the revolution: Whether to seek dialogue with the regime, whether outside military intervention is needed and what ideology should guide a post-Assad Syria.

Unlike Libya's National Transitional Council, which brought together most factions fighting Moammar Gadhafi's regime and was quickly recognized by much of the international community, Syria's opposition has no leadership on the ground.

Egypt's new leader claims revolution's mantle

CAIRO (AP)—Standing before tens of thousands of adoring supporters in Tahrir Square, President Mohammed Morsi opened his jacket in a show of bravado to prove he was not wearing a bullet-proof vest. The message was clear: He has nothing to fear because he sees himself as the legitimate representative of Egypt's uprising.

In the week since he was named president, Morsi has portrayed himself as a simple man, uninterested in the trappings of power and refusing to take up residence in the presidential palace

His speeches reveal a populist bent, filled with generous promises many are skeptical he can keep. And although he began as an awkward and uninspiring speaker, Morsi appears to be striving to reinvent his uncharismatic public persona.

After eking out a narrow victory in last month's runoff, Morsi has claimed the mantle of the revolution that ousted Hosni Mubarak last year.

But his Muslim Brotherhood did not join the uprising until it had gained irreversible momentum. And its critics say the Islamic fundamentalist group has hijacked the movement that was led by secular and liberal youths, and abandoned demonstrators during deadly clashes with security forces in the months that followed Mubarak's February 2011 ouster.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico's next president faces uphill fight

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The apparent victor of Mexico's presidential race, Enrique Pena Nieto, struggled Monday with the sticky bonds of his party's notorious past, the limitation of his election mandate and an opponent who refused to concede defeat. His long-ruling and now-returned Institutional Revolutionary Party, the PRI, won only about 38 percent of the vote and is unlikely to get a majority in Congress. In fact, it may lose seats. He faces an old guard in the PRI that still exercises considerable power, a war with fierce drug cartels and a still sluggish economy. His closest rival, leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who polled a higher-than-expected vote of about 32 percent, refused to accept the loss, and many of his militant followers were suspicious of the results.

Officials: Iranians targeted Israeli, US interests

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Two Iranians who led authorities to a cache of explosives after their arrest planned to attack Israeli, U.S., British or Saudi targets inside Kenya, officials told The Associated Press on Monday. The two are believed to be members of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Quds Force, an elite and secretive unit that acts against foreign interests, one of the officials said. The foiled attack appeared to fit into a global pattern of alleged plots by Iranian agents. Previous plots were uncovered in the U.S.—against Saudi Arabia's ambassador—as well as in Thailand, Azerbaijan and India.

Islamists continue destroying Timbuktu heritage

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—Muslim extremists continued destroying the heritage of the ancient Malian city of Timbuktu on Monday, razing tombs and attacking the gate of a 600-year-old mosque, despite growing international outcry. The International Criminal Court has described the destruction of the city's patrimony as a possible war crime, while UNESCO's committee on world heritage was holding a special session this week to address the pillaging of the site, one of the few cultural sites in sub-Saharan Africa that is listed by the agency.

Focus

Oil and politics are ancient

Babylon's new curse

AP

In this Sunday, May 6, 2012 photo, barbed wire surrounds the Lion of Babylon at the archaeological site of Babylon, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) miles south of Baghdad, Iraq.

By KARIN LAUB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BABYLON, Iraq (AP)—Nowadays it seems that Babylon just can't catch a break.

Once the center of the ancient world, it has been despoiled in modern times by Saddam Hussein's fantasies of grandeur, invading armies and village sprawl.

Now come two more setbacks for the city famous for its Hanging Gardens and Tower of Babel: Parts of its grounds have been torn up for an oil pipeline, and a diplomatic spat is hampering its bid for coveted UNESCO heritage status.

The pipeline was laid in March by Iraq's Oil Ministry, overriding outraged Iraqi archaeologists and drawing a rebuke from UNESCO, the global guardian of cultural heritage.

Then Iraq's tourism minister blocked official visits to the site by the World Monuments Fund, a New York-based group that is helping Babylon secure a World Heritage site designation after three rejections.

It's payback for an unrelated dispute with the U.S. over the fate of Iraq's Jewish archives, rescued from a waterlogged basement after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion and taken to the U.S.

"I will make Babylon a desolate place of owls, filled with swamps and marshes. I will sweep the land with the broom of destruction," God warns in Isaiah 14:22-23.

Today desolation and destruction are all too evident.

Uncontrolled digging, paving and building have resulted from Saddam Hussein's heavy-handed attempt to replicate the splendor of a city dating back nearly 4,000 years.

Since his downfall foreign troops have camped in parts of Babylon's 10 square kilometers (four square miles). Growing villages are spilling onto its grounds and rising groundwater threatens the ancient mud brick ruins in the roughly 20 percent of its area that has been excavated over the past century.

"It's a mess and there are a load of problems," said Jeffrey Allen, a consultant for the World Monuments Fund. "A lot of this feeling you get from a major archaeological site is missing from Babylon."

Babylon, straddling the Euphrates River some 90 kilometers (55 miles) south of Baghdad, was both a testament to human ingenuity and a symbol of false pride and materialism.

It produced two of the major kings of antiquity—Hammurabi, author of one of the world's oldest written legal codes, and Nebuchadnezzar II, conqueror of Jerusalem in 597 B.C.

With towering temples and luxurious palaces, Babylon was transformed by Nebuchadnezzar into the largest city of its time. His Hanging Gardens, according to legend a multilevel horticultural gift to his homesick wife, was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Babylon is mentioned dozens of times in the Bible, which tells the story of Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of the Jewish temple and enslavement of the Jews. Pop lyrics were inspired by the verse capturing the Jews' pain of exile: "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion" (Psalms 37-1).

Visitors would have to struggle to imagine the ancient city once nestled among date plantations.

There are still palms, but otherwise Saddam's works overpower the scene—modern brick and mortar on brittle ruins, a wide thoroughfare and a new palace for the latter-day despot.

After he was toppled, coalition forces camped on the grounds for 20 months, according to a 2009 UNESCO report. It said they dug trenches, spread gravel and damaged parts of Babylon's famed Ishtar Gate and the Processional Way,.

The new oil pipeline runs 1.7 meters (six feet) under Babylon for about 1.5 kilometers (a mile), alongside two other pipelines dug in the Saddam era.

The Oil Ministry says no artifacts were found during the digging, and that the new pipeline is needed to ease energy. Spokesman Assem Jihad said the ministry is looking for an alternative route, but needs time. "I think this issue was blown out of proportion," he said.

The antiquities department has nonetheless sued the ministry, demanding it remove the pipeline. UNESCO said it wrote to the Iraqi authorities, expressing concern.

Meanwhile, the World Monuments Fund is trying to help authorities protect the ruins from rising groundwater caused by the government's irrigation policies, said Allen, the group's Babylon site manager.

The WMF is training Iraqi staff and helping to prepare Babylon's bid for UNESCO recognition. Previously, the Saddam-era reconstructions were a major obstacle to getting the nod.

Allen said one option is to embrace some of Babylon's flaws and nominate the site as a "cultural landscape," which would include some of Saddam's additions, such as his hilltop palace.

But now the WMF itself has fallen foul of officialdom. Iraq's government decided several months ago to suspend ties with U.S. universities and institutions involved in archaeology in Iraq.

It's part of a long-running dispute over the fate of the Iraqi Jewish archives. The trove of books, photos and religious items were found in Baghdad by U.S. troops and taken to the U.S. for study and preservation under an agreement with Iraqi authorities that stipulated they would be returned.

But Iraqi authorities grew impatient to get them back, and now Tourism Minister Liwa Smaysin alleges that the U.S. sent some of the artifacts to Israel for an exhibition, a claim denied both by the U.S. State Department and Israel's Antiquities Authority. The U.S. says the archives will eventually be returned to Iraq.

Allen said he was recently prevented from visiting the site. WMF officials expressed hope the measures are temporary and that the group can continue some of its work.

Qais Rashid, head of Iraq's State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, said the government also called off a U.S. training course for employees of the antiquities department.

"This is a big loss for us, the frozen relations," he said.

But he also argued that Babylon will remain a top archaeological attraction, regardless of its formal designation.

"If it's not listed, it's not a big deal," he said. "Babylon can survive on its own."

Campus Life

AP

A student waits for a bus behind a no smoking sign at the State University of New York at Albany in Albany, N.Y., on Tuesday, June 26, 2012.

Colleges moves toward absolute bans on smoking

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—As a political science major at Ohio State University, Ida Seitter says, she lit up many a cigarette to help her through the stress of exam season. Right or wrong, they were her security blanket as she toiled through college.

Seitter, now 26, was old enough by then to make her own decisions, she says. She opposes efforts by policymakers in Ohio, New York, California and other states to impose bans on tobacco use not just in buildings at public colleges, but also anywhere on the campus—even in the open air.

"Just back away from me a little bit. I won't blow it in your face and I'll try not to be rude," Seitter says. "At the same time, I think it's a little discriminatory for a practice that is considered legal."

Bans on use, advertising and sales of tobacco in all its forms are being enacted or considered at perhaps half of campuses nationwide, sometimes over the objections of student smokers, staff and faculty. The movement is driven by mounting evidence of the health risks of secondhand smoke, the reduced costs of smoke-free dorms and a drive to minimize enticements to smoke at a critical age for forming lifelong habits.

California's state system will begin to bar tobacco use in 2013. A ban on use and advertising at the City University of New York system goes into effect in September, and the University of Missouri at Columbia is going smoke-free in 2014.

Ohio higher education officials plan a vote next month urging all public campuses to ban tobacco use. That includes Ohio State, one of the nation's largest universities, which currently bans only indoor smoking.

According to the surgeon general's report for 2012, tobacco use among people ages 18 to 25 remains at epidemic proportions nationwide. The review found 90 percent of smokers started by age 18, and 99 percent by age 26. About a quarter to a third of college students smoke, studies have found.

The study found the U.S. would have 3 million fewer young smokers if success in reducing youth smoking by state tobacco-cessation programs from 1997 to 2003 had been sustained. Many of the programs have been hit by budget cuts.

Health and education officials, anti-smoking groups and a generation of students who grew up smoke-free are increasingly united on the issue, says Bronson Frick, associate director of Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights.

"There are many reasons why a college or university may choose to pursue this type of policy, whether secondhand smoke, dorm fires, or other issues," he says. "They are also questioning what the role of tobacco is in this academic setting, where we're supposed to be standing for truth and training the next generation of leaders."

According to data kept by the nonsmokers group, campus tobacco bans have risen from virtually zero a decade ago to 711 today. That includes both four-year and two-year institutions, both public and private.

One of the first campuses to ban tobacco was Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield, Mo., which endorsed the move in 1999 and put it in place four years later. The school also established a research center that works with other colleges and hospitals pursuing similar moves, now known as the National Center for Tobacco Policy.

Ty Patterson, the center's director, says Ozarks quickly realized that its previous policy of allowing smoking in designated outdoor areas was impractical and couldn't be properly enforced.

Forbidding all tobacco use was deemed to be more effective than simply saying no to cigarette smoke, Patterson says.

"When you go smoke-free, you drive smokers to use smokeless tobacco, which is more addictive," he says.

Cigarette-size cigars containing candy and fruit flavorings, dissolvable strips and lozenges are among the smokeless tobacco products being targeted to youths, according to the surgeon general. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says studies show many smokers mix and match such products with cigarettes as they move from smoking to nonsmoking venues.

Compliance with tobacco bans is generally voluntary, and violations come with few, if any, real penalties. Repeat offenders are sometimes subjected to university disciplinary policies, which vary by school.

While precise statistics on the number of campuses curtailing tobacco are elusive, Patterson estimates that one-third to one-half of all higher education institutions have either made the move or are considering it.

Smoking rights advocate Audrey Silk, founder of New York Citizens Lobbying Against Smoker Harassment, says any outdoor ban—whether for a campus, beach or public park—is an attack on the rights of one segment of the population.

"This isn't a health issue anymore. It's a moral issue," she says. "There's absolutely zero reason for a smoking ban outdoors. They use it as a tool. Harm from smoke outdoors is an excuse to frustrate smokers into quitting because they can't find a place to light up."

Silk says it's not the place of schools to enforce health issues.

"Schools are a business," she says. "Who assigned them the role of behavior modification? It's their responsibility to educate. What they're doing is indoctrinating."

Tobacco companies have also questioned the role of universities to take such steps. With limited lobbying power at the college level, they have pursued legislation in some states to preempt tobacco-control decisions from occurring at any but the state level.

A spokesman for Philip Morris USA Inc., the nation's largest tobacco company, deferred comment to the company website, which states that some smoking restrictions are justified but that all-out bans "go too far."

"Smoking should be permitted outdoors except in very particular circumstances, such as outdoor areas primarily designed for children," it states.

Seitter, who now works as development coordinator for the Columbus Board of Realtors, says budding college smokers often took up the habit after-hours, at venues such as bars that campus tobacco bans don't reach.

"You find a lot of people start drinking at that age, and many people who don't consider themselves smokers, they smoke when they drink," she says. "I would think that atmosphere has more of an effect than somebody smoking on the corner."

Life&Style

Star-spangled cocktails

By JACKIE BURRELL
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Red, white and blueberry-infused gin?

A fabulous Fourth of July party is always enhanced by equally fabulous libations, so we turned to some of the Bay Area's most creative bartenders and mixology mavens for inspiration. The result is a patriotic panoply—and not just of alliterative adjectives.

These star-spangled cocktails—strawberry-rhubarb sparklers, tricolor spirits and even a gourmet take on Jell-O shots—are sure to add pizzazz to any pyrotechnics. Besides, how can you resist when the mixologist at Walnut Creek's newest buzzworthy hot spot, The Corners Tavern, gives you a cocktail that celebrates not just freedom of spirit, but a certain wantonness, too?

Jamal Robinson serves his cocktail, The Libertine, with a wink, as well as muddled watermelon, tequila, lime juice and St. Germain elderflower liqueur. It's enough to turn even the most rakish roue into a patriot—or maybe it's the other way round.

There are vodka quaffs, rum sips, beer cocktails and even a sherry-tinged drink in the mix. Some evoke those signature Independence Day colors and seasonal flavors with fresh strawberries, watermelon, rhubarb and blueberries. Others go for the indigo hue via blue curacao. And some take their reference points from events of the Revolutionary past.

REVOLUTIONARY RUM

The 13 Guns cocktail from mixologist Justin Crawford, of San Francisco's trendy Prospect restaurant, is a salute to the original 13 Colonies. The drink gets its rosy hue from muddled strawberries and almond milk, and the rum offers another nod to the Revolutionary era. Crawford says he chose to work with rum because of its storied past and the part it played in American history before and during the Revolution. Besides, he says, it's a great summer drink.

At Emeryville's hip new speakeasy, Honor Bar, Grill & Cocktails, bar manager Alex Smith uses a riff on the classic Bee's Knees, a gin, honey and lemon cocktail. But the gin in Smith's Five Points Patriot is infused with blueberries.

"I wanted to go the all-natural, seasonal way," he says. "This is a nice patriotic and seasonal hybrid of a few classic cocktails, among them the gin fizz, the gin and tonic and the Bees Knees."

The cocktail gets added pizazz from some stencil action, too. Peynaud's Bitters are sprayed over a layer of meringue to create a red star. It's stunning.

STRIPED COCKTAILS

For Christopher Moore, the mixologist at Menlo Park's Left Bank Brasserie, a Fourth of July cocktail should not be just patriotic, but seasonal and fun—despite his gourmet palate, Moore still has a soft spot for a certain retro libation. His Patriot Pops are a new take on the old school Jell-O shot.

"Right off the bat, I was thinking of a way to upscale this classic party favor," he says. "It's all fresh produce. The top layer consists of wonderfully ripe California Bing cherries, followed by a coconut puree and a rum daiquiri on the bottom."

There's a dash of blue curacao in the daiquiri mixture, because whether you're aiming for royal, navy, indigo or any other blue hue, that's a difficult color to achieve in a drink. Hence the popularity of the Valencia orange-flavored liqueur, despite its artificial coloring, with bartenders in even the swankiest restaurants. For example, it's used at Madera, the Michelin-starred restaurant at Menlo Park, Calif.'s Rosewood Sand Hill Hotel in its tricolor martini along with Pearl Pomegranate vodka.

Moore is OK with curacao, but he draws the line at putting gelatin, an animal byproduct, in his cocktails.

"I don't want to put something out there that I can't stand behind," he says. "I use agar—seaweed—instead of gelatin. (The result is) firm enough to pick up with your hands, yet melts in your mouth, combining all of the flavors."

RAVISHING REDS

Jay Crabb avoids the blue problem by going scarlet instead. "Bright red and blue cocktails tend to be sweet and one-dimensional because of the ingredients you have to use to get them to be that color," says Crabb, the mixologist at Walnut Creek Yacht Club, a seafood restaurant that doesn't let its landlocked status get in the way of celebrating all things aquatic.

He won last year's Best Martini in the East Bay contest with an Andalusia martini, its vodka tinged a vivid crimson with a red pepper syrup. He suggests doing something similar with another summery drink, an India Pale Ale-based cocktail he designed for a beer-pairing dinner at the restaurant.

"That is totally summer and July in my eyes, combining beer—summer by the BBQ—with roasted red pepper and cucumber syrup, a cooling summer flavor," he says.

Or, go the bubbly route, Crabb suggests, with a rosy-hued, Strawberry-Rhubarb Sparkler. The blend of spiced strawberry-rhubarb syrup, fresh lemon juice and sparkling wine is easy to make and easy to sip while watching the sparklers in the sky.

CONTRA COSTA TIMES/MCT

From left, a Star-Spangled Cocktail with Pearl pomegranate vodka and blue curacao, Spiced Strawberry-Rhubarb Sparkler and a Libertine, with muddled watermelon, tequila, vermouth, St. Germain elderflower liqueur and lime.

PATRIOT POPS

Note: Find powdered agar at specialty shops and Amazon.com.

Blue layer:

1 ounce fresh lemon juice
1 ounce fresh lime juice
1 ½ ounces simple syrup (see recipe)
4 ounces water
3 rounded teaspoons powdered agar, divided
2 ½ ounces white rum
1 ounce blue Curacao

White layer:

11 ounces coconut milk (see recipe)
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon sugar

Red layer:

11 ounces Bing cherry puree (see recipe)

1. Combine lemon juice, lime juice, simple syrup and water with 1 rounded teaspoon agar in a saucepan. Stir continuously and bring to a boil. Off heat, add rum and blue Curacao. Pour into a silicone ice cube tray, filling each mold 1/3 of the way up. Chill for 20 minutes to set.

2. Combine coconut milk, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 tablespoon sugar and 1 rounded teaspoon agar in a saucepan. Stirring, bring it to a boil. Pour the mixture into the molds, filling another third. Chill to set.

3. Combine cherry puree and 1 rounded teaspoon agar in a saucepan. Stirring, bring it to a boil. Pour the final layer into the molds. Chill until thoroughly set and cold.

4. To serve, pop the Patriot Pops out of the molds.

Coconut Milk

Split 1 whole coconut, reserving the water. Use a melon baller to remove the meat from half the coconut. Puree the coconut meat and water until smooth. Strain through cheesecloth or a very fine sieve.

Bing Cherry Puree

Puree 1 pound ripe Bing cherries with ½ cup water. Strain through cheesecloth or a fine sieve.

Simple Syrup

Combine 1 cup sugar and 1 cup water in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, remove from heat and let cool.

—Christopher Moore, Left Bank Brasserie, Menlo Park

FIVE POINTS PATRIOT

Serves 1

Note: There's a variety of blueberry-infused gin recipes online, if you'd like to make your own.

2 ounces blueberry-infused gin
¾ ounce vanilla-scented honey
1 ounce lemon juice
¾ ounce egg white
Tonic water
Hibiscus-enhanced Peychaud's bitters

Combine the gin, honey, lemon and egg white in a martini shaker and give it a dry shake, i.e., without ice. Then shake it hard with ice. Double strain it into a cold glass, top with tonic water and spray the red bitters through a five-pointed star stencil.

—Alex Smith, Honor Bar, Grill & Cocktails, Emeryville

SPICED STRAWBERRY-RHUBARB SPARKLER

Serves 1

Note: The amount of sparkling wine depends upon the size of your glass. Feel free to increase or decrease the other ingredients, depending on the size of your flute or coupe.

1 ounce chilled Spiced Strawberry-Rhubarb Syrup (see recipe)
¾ ounce fresh lemon juice
6 ounces chilled sparkling wine, Champagne or cava

Pour the syrup and lemon juice into your glass and give them a gentle stir, then slowly top with sparkling wine. Garnish with a slice of strawberry and a thin slice of lemon.

Spiced Strawberry Rhubarb Syrup

½ pound hulled strawberries, chopped
½ pound rhubarb stalks, chopped
2 cups sugar
2 cups water
1 bay leaf
1 star anise
Juice of one lemon
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
3 allspice berries

Bring ingredients to a boil. Simmer 15 minutes. Chill for 30 minutes, then strain into a clean glass container and refrigerate until ready to use.

—Jay Crabb, Walnut Creek (Calif.) Yacht Club

IPA COCKTAIL

Serves 1

3 ounces chilled Sweet Red Pepper and Cucumber Puree (see recipe)
1 ounce lemon juice
½ ounce amontillado sherry
4 ounces chilled IPA (India Pale Ale-style) beer
Garnishes: Cucumber ribbon, cocktail onion, small cherry tomato

1. Put the pepper and cucumber puree, lemon juice and sherry in a cocktail shaker filled with ice, and shake as for a martini. Strain into a chilled beer glass, and add the IPA.

2. Use a vegetable peeler to cut a cucumber ribbon. Wrap the ribbon around the cocktail onion and cherry tomato, skewer them on a toothpick, and place the garnish on the rim of your beer glass.

Sweet Red Pepper and Cucumber Puree

8 ounces peeled, roasted red peppers
½ pound peeled, seeded, chopped cucumber
1 ½ cups sugar
1 ½ cups water
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon black pepper

Bring everything to a boil, then remove from heat and let stand 20 minutes. Blend until very smooth, then pour into a clean glass container and chill until ready to use.

—Jay Crabb, Walnut Creek Yacht Club

THE LIBERTINE

Serves 1

3 cubes of watermelon
1 ½ ounces Herradura Blanco tequila
¼ ounce dry vermouth
¾ ounce St. Germain elder flower liqueur
Juice of ½ a lime
Garnish: Black salt, pickled watermelon

Muddle watermelon in a cocktail shaker. Add the remaining ingredients to the muddled watermelon and shake vigorously. Double strain the cocktail into a rocks glass filled with ice and rimmed with black salt. Garnish with pickled watermelon.

—Corner Tavern, Walnut Creek

13 GUNS

Serves 1

3 to 5 strawberries (depending on size)
2 ounces aged rum
¾ ounce lemon juice
¾ ounce simple syrup
½ ounce Grand Marnier orange liqueur
¾ ounce almond milk, best quality
Garnish: Fresh blueberries

Muddle strawberries in a cocktail shaker. Add remaining ingredients and shake vigorously over ice. Strain into a hurricane glass filled with ice, and garnish with fresh blueberries.

—Justin Crawford, Prospect, San Francisco

STAR SPANGLED COCKTAIL

Serves 1

3 ounces Pearl Pomegranate Vodka
Dash of Sprite
Dash of blue curacao
Garnish: Red sugar

Rim a martini glass with red sugar. Shake the vodka and sprite with ice, then carefully pour into the martini glass. Gently the blue curacao down the side of the glass so it settles on the bottom.

—Juan Luis Sanchez, Madera, Rosewood Sand Hill Hotel, Menlo Park

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Vice President

Graduate of a 4-year degree course and with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management, tourism and/or hotel management. Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

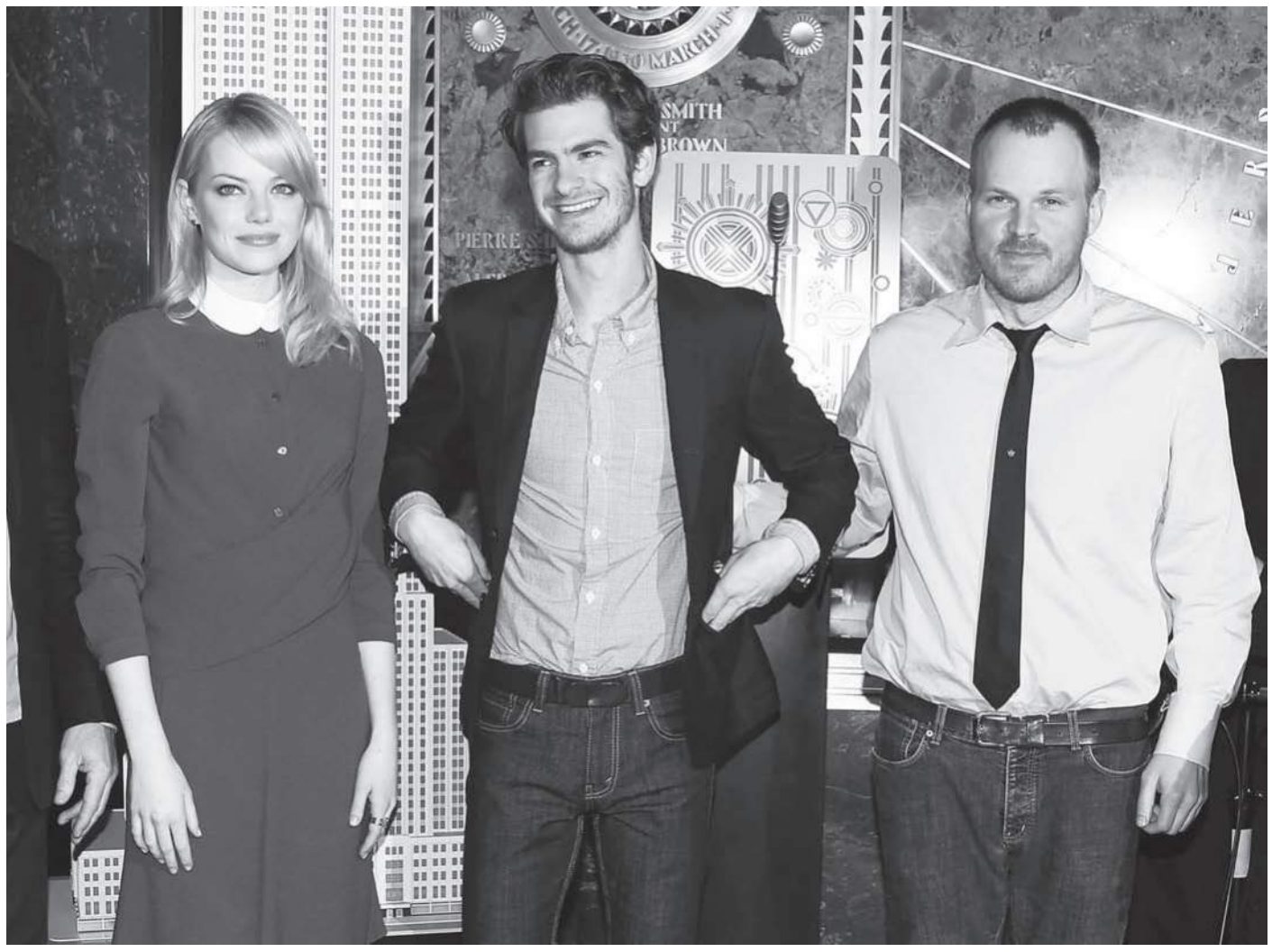
Administrative Assistant

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Must be proficient in various Microsoft software applications. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good people and interpersonal skills at work. Should be able to work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to **hrd_l&t@tanholdings.com** not later than July 13, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Rebooting 'Spider-Man,' in a flash



AP

This Monday, June 25, 2012 file image released by Starpix shows actors Emma Stone, left, and Andrew Garfield with director Marc Webb from "The Amazing Spider-Man," at the Empire State Building during a lighting ceremony in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—On a weekend in January of 2010, Sony Pictures and Marvel Studios pivoted faster than even Spider-Man would dare.

A fourth installment of the hugely popular Spider-man franchise was planned, with director Sam Raimi and star Tobey Maguire returning to their trilogy of films that had earned more than $2.5 billion at the global box office and generally been hailed as a standard-bearer in big-screen comic book adaptations.

But by that Monday, Raimi's dissatisfaction with the script and the producers' eagerness for a new movie had come to a head. In a flash, the sequel was kaput, and a reboot was ordered up. Next Tuesday, "The Amazing Spider-Man" will be released, charting a new start for the web-slinger just five years after "Spider-Man 3."

Reboots of film franchises have been typically launched many more years later than that. But today, "five years is a lifetime in the movie business," says Sony Pictures co-chairman Amy Pascal. "I wasn't troubled by it."

Reasons for reboots vary from restoring dormant franchises ("Star Trek"), to refreshing long-running ones (James Bond) or improving on previous failures (The Hulk).

The Hulk was famously tried twice, in 2003 and 2008 by Marvel and Universal Pictures. Similarly, a new Superman ("Man of Steel") is due out next year from Warner Bros., a new start for the DC Comics' character after 2006's "Superman Returns" disappointed.

"The Amazing Spider-Man," on the other hand, comes close on the heels of Raimi's acclaimed trilogy. Though Sony's preference was to make a fourth film with the same team, Pascal now says they were "looking for a story that wasn't there," following the conclusiveness of "Spider-Man 3."

That makes the $200 million "Amazing Spider-Man" a somewhat daring maneuver, bound to face comparisons to the recent Spider-Man films and skepticism from some moviegoers.

To combat any Spidey fatigue, Sony has imbued the new, 3-D "Spider-Man" with youth: Andrew Garfield plays Peter Parker, Emma Stone plays his girlfriend Gwen Stacy and Marc Webb, whose only previous feature was 2009's "(500) Days of Summer," directs.

"The only time to take a break is when your franchise fails," says Avi Arad, a producer of the film and former CEO of Marvel Studios. "People want Spider-Man, so it's our responsibility to give them something new, something different and start a whole new generation of Spider-Man lovers."

Webb's vision of the film (written by James Vanderbilt, Alvin Sargent and Steve Kloves) is predicated on Parker's origin—tracing his history as an orphan and beginning with his parents. That also means, come high school, covering some of the same ground from Raimi's first "Spider-Man": the spider bite, the uncle's death, the school hallway showdowns.

"It's not like we're retelling the exact origin as Sam had done it," says Webb. "But I felt it was important for a new story to understand the character from the ground up because I feel like the inflection of this character was quite different than what we'd seen before."

That inflection is closer to the Spider-Man of the comics. Garfield's version of the hero is more sarcastic, lithe and twitchy—more of a rebellious teen.

The 28-year-old British actor from "The Social Network," who's fresh off an acclaimed performance in "Death of a Salesman" on Broadway, wanted to honor the previous incarnations of Spider-Man. A fan of the comics since childhood, he says taking on the role was less a decision to consider than a matter of listening to "my inner 3-year-old screaming at me."

"With Spider-Man, the legacy is so huge and there's so much to pay homage to and respect to, that you have to be as aware of it as much as possible," says Garfield.

After moving through some of the iconic elements of the Spider-Man story, the film brings in a new villain from the comics: the Lizard, as transformed from the scientist Dr. Curt Connors (Rhys Ifans). The film reminds one that Spider-Man remains a young man's superhero: It works best as a coming of age story. Had "Spider-Man 4" gone ahead (Maguire is now 36), producers said it would have been the last of the series.

"A big part of the DNA of Peter Parker is that adolescent quality," says Webb, whose "(500) Days of Summer" was also a story of transition into adulthood. "It's a time in your life where you're imperfect and you're unpolished and you make mistakes and you're discovering things and every emotion is apocalyptic."

Certainly, unending serial storytelling is part of the spirit of comics, which typically flow in constant weekly or monthly installments.

"I want to live in a world where Spider-Man stories are being told over and over again," says producer Matt Tolmach. "Sometimes, people leave things sitting on a shelf for too long."

It's also an enormously lucrative franchise, with robust merchandizing and popular accompanying video games. "The Amazing Spider-Man" keeps that machine churning. Early reviews have generally been positive and global box office expectations are running high.

A sequel is already in the works, with production expected to begin early next year. The huge success of "The Avengers" has stoked speculation that Spider-Man could be roped into the next episode, of which Arad says, "Anything is possible."

Either way, the future possibilities for more Spider-Man are again limitless. Says Arad: "This can be so many movies."

AP

This June 23, 2012 file photo shows CNN's Anderson Cooper arrives at the 39th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Anderson Cooper: 'The fact is, I'm gay'

NEW YORK (AP)—Anderson Cooper revealed on Monday that he is gay, ending years of reluctance to talk about his personal life in public.

The CNN journalist wrote in an online letter that he had kept his sexual orientation private for personal and professional reasons, but came to think that remaining silent had given some people a mistaken impression that he was ashamed.

"The fact is, I'm gay, always have been, always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself and proud," he wrote in the letter, published by Andrew Sullivan of the Daily Beast.

Cooper, the son of Gloria Vanderbilt, had long been the subject of rumors about his sexual orientation. He said that in a perfect world, it wouldn't be anyone's business, but that there is value in "standing up and being counted."

"I still consider myself a reserved person and I hope this doesn't mean an end to a small amount of personal space," he wrote. "But I do think visibility is important, more important than preserving my reporter's shield of privacy."

CNN said it would not comment, and that Cooper was on assignment and there were no plans for Cooper to discuss it on the air.

Few national television news reporters have publicly acknowledged being gay, with MSNBC's Rachel Maddow and CNN's Don Lemon perhaps the best known.

Cooper's show, "Anderson Cooper 360," received an award this year from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

"Even prior to coming out publicly, Anderson's terrific work has raised awareness of inequalities facing LGBT people, said GLAAD President Herndon Graddick. "He's a role model to millions and now will inspire countless others."

AP

This April 26, 2012 file photo shows rapper Pitbull smiling after accepting the award for the Song of the Year by a male performer during the Latin Billboard Awards in Coral Gables, Fla.

Miami rapper Pitbull may head to Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Miami rapper Pitbull might soon be chilling out in Alaska.

In a marketing deal, Walmart will send Pitbull, aka Armando Christian Perez, to the store that gets the most "likes" on its Facebook page.

Right now, the leading candidate is Kodiak, Alaska. And there might be a reason.

A writer for The Boston Phoenix newspaper thought it'd be funny to send Pitbull to the most remote Walmart possible, and is encouraging people to "like" the Walmart in Kodiak.

It seems to be working.

The Kodiak Walmart had more than 35,000 "likes" Monday, more than five times the town's population.

Kodiak has a significant lead in the contest to land Pitbull, but actual numbers weren't immediately available, Walmart spokeswoman Sarah Spencer said.

She says other Walmart shoppers have until July 16 to like their local stores and pull ahead of Kodiak.

"I know Pitbull is hoping his Miami Walmart shoppers start liking their Facebook page," she said.

That would require some heavy lifting, with one Miami location sitting tight with 45 "likes" Monday.

"He's definitely coming to Kodiak if Kodiak wins," she said. It would be the rapper's first visit to Alaska.

Pitbull, who is touring Europe, seems to be taking the contest in good nature. "Wherever the fans want to have a party, I will be there," he said in an emailed statement sent Monday from Austria.

Kodiak Island is about 225 miles southwest of Anchorage. It's home to the nation's largest Coast Guard base, and the island is known for its Kodiak brown bear population.

That fact wasn't lost on Pitbull, who tweeted Saturday: "I hear there's bear repellant at Kodiak, Alaska (at) walmartspecials."

Avon taps Bon Jovi for new Unplugged fragrances

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon Bon Jovi is going Unplugged in a bottle.

Avon Products Inc. announced Monday that the 50-year-old rock star is the company's newest celebrity fragrance partner. He'll appear in ads for both Unplugged for Her and Unplugged for Him.

The company said the inspiration for both scents is the unique feeling one has listening to a favorite song. The goal is "an emotional connection."

The women's version, which will be available through Avon representatives and online in October, is a floral oriental perfume, and the men's is a woody floral musk fragrance. It will go on sale in November.

Both Avon and Bon Jovi said admiration for each other's involvement in philanthropy largely drew them together as partners.

This July 27, 2011 file photo shows singer Jon Bon Jovi performing during Bon Jovi's "Open Air Tour" show at Estadio Olympico, in Barcelona, Spain.

AP

Poet laureate Natasha Trethewey working on memoir

Trethewey

NEW YORK (AP)—The nation's new poet laureate will be telling her own story, in prose.

Natasha Trethewey is working on a memoir, currently untitled, that has been acquired by Ecco. The publisher, an imprint of HarperCollins, announced Monday that the book is scheduled to come out in 2014.

The 46-year-old Trethewey is the daughter of a white father and black mother. The memoir will tell of her childhood in the American South in the 1970s and `80s.

Trethewey won the Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for her collection "Native Guard." This fall, she begins a one-year term as U.S. poet laureate.

HBO treats 'Newsroom,' 'True Blood' to new seasons

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO says it's bringing back "The Newsroom" and "True Blood" for another season each.

HBO announced Monday that "True Blood," the network's hit vampire drama, will be coming back for a sixth season next year. Its stars include Anna Paquin (PA'-kwihn) and Stephen Moyer.

"The Newsroom," created and written by Oscar-winner Aaron Sorkin, won a green light for a second season after just two episodes have aired. Though getting mixed reviews from critics, the show attracted a healthy audience for its premiere, totaling 2.1 million viewers.

Set at a cable news network, "The Newsroom" features Jeff Daniels, Emily Mortimer, Alison Pill and Sam Waterston.

In honor of 'Brave,' 5 great movie redheads

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Brave" is Pixar's first feature with a strong female character at its center. And while it's not among the animation powerhouse's best films from a storytelling perspective, it is undeniably beautiful. Among its more appealing visual elements is the wild mane of long, red curls on the head of Scottish princess Merida.

So that got me thinking about other famous movie redheads. There are so many to choose from but I only get to pick five. Sorry, Carrot Top.

Katharine Hepburn: The classic redhead, even though it may not have been obvious in her early, black-and-white movies. Hepburn's hair—along with those sharp cheekbones, bright eyes and tall, athletic frame—gave her an aura of patrician bearing and strength. In color films, the red locks magnified her fiery persona, contributed to the sense that she was not a woman to be trifled with. And even in later films like 1981's "On Golden Pond," when her tresses had faded a bit, she still exuded an air of irreverence and unpredictability.

Nicole Kidman: We see her as a blonde sometimes: on the red carpet for the Oscars, for example, or in her upcoming movie "The Paperboy," for which she bleached her locks platinum. She switched to a medium-brown shade for the biopic "Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus." But for the most part, Kidman's raven hair is a key component of her signature, statuesque look. In early films like "Dead Calm" and "Days of Thunder," the prodigious nature of her red curls signaled the presence of someone fierce and formidable. But she's also smoothed them out and tamed them to a softer strawberry shade for movies including "To Die For."

Emma Stone: A redhead on the rise. Yes, she's back to her natural blonde hair for her latest role as Gwen Stacy in next month's "The Amazing Spider-Man." But in the movies that put her on the map—"Superbad," "Zombieland" and especially "Easy A," the high school comedy that made it clear she's destined for superstardom—her red hair adds to her sly, subversive allure. More mature roles came along last year in two big movies: "The Help" and "Crazy Stupid Love." Her entire vibe suggests that she'd just be a cool chick to hang out with, and a lot of that has to do with the intriguing contrast of her dark red hair and bright green eyes.

Jessica Rabbit: OK, this is a bit of a cheat. So maybe she's not a "real" person (although she's inspired countless real fantasies, not to mention naughty Halloween costumes). But I have to admit then when I started pondering the notion of movie redheads, this cartoon character's name is the first one that popped into my head. The femme fatale from Robert Zemeckis' 1988 film "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," a groundbreaking mix of live-action and animation, simply oozes sex appeal, especially as voiced by Kathleen Turner. Crucial to her look is her long mane of wavy, red tresses, which cascade down all the right places on her curvy frame.

Woody Allen: They can't all be women, right? He's 76 now and the years have understandably grayed him, as evidenced this week as he appears on screen in his latest movie, the ensemble comedy "To Rome With Love." But in his earliest films, like 1971's "Bananas" and 1977's "Annie Hall," the shaggy red hair combined with the eyeglasses, the demeanor and the delivery to create his trademark, neurotic persona. While red hair can seem so exciting on women, Allen's contributed to the sensation that he was an underdog, someone you always want to root for to get out of a predicament or fall in love.

AP

In this May 25, 2012 file photo, actress Nicole Kidman poses for photographers during a photo call for "Hemingway & Gellhorn" at the 65th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France.

Alcoholic feels he doesn't deserve the love of his life

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 39-year-old gay man in a three-year relationship with a wonderful man. We had both come out of very long and abusive relationships when we met. He works hard, and I stay home and take care of the house, the animals and the yard. There is no kind of abuse in our relationship.

The problem is that I am an alcoholic. He keeps telling me he can handle it as long as there is no abuse. I feel I'm taking advantage of him and that he deserves better than this, and I have told him so.

I have been in rehab several times and tried AA. Nothing worked. I always go back to drinking. Where do I go from here? I don't want to lose the love of my life, but it's killing me inside that he has to put up with my drinking problem.

NEEDS HELP IN FLORIDA

DEAR NEEDS HELP: There IS abuse going on in your relationship—substance abuse. Until you finally decide that there is something more important than a drink, you will remain stuck in your addiction. And as long as your partner continues to accept and "handle it," he will be your enabler. Where you go from here is up to you, but getting counseling for your low self-esteem and going back to AA would be giant steps in the right direction.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: It seems that every other letter you print concerns a demanding relative (a parent, in-law, sibling, etc.). The writer always wants to know how to avoid unreasonable demands without causing "unpleasantness." May I say a word to these folks?

Be honest and admit that the relationship is ALREADY unpleasant. Demanding people are impossible to please. They know their control over you depends on temper tantrums and/or fits of sulking and tears. They'll pitch these fits regularly no matter how hard you try to please them.

When faced with an unreasonable demand, just say "no." Don't waste time giving reasons or trying to work out a compromise. You already know it won't do any good. Then hunker down and wait for the explosion, keeping in mind that the longer you have been a doormat, the more violent and bitter the reaction will be.

Above all, do not be drawn into a fight! Controlling people love to fight, and they are good at it. Your weapon should be polite withdrawal. Refuse meetings. Screen your calls. Ignore letters and emails unless they contain an apology and indicate a sincere desire for change. It may shock your domineering relatives into more reasonable behavior.

If not, you haven't lost a thing. You may even find that your life is less complicated without them. Draw the line and let your family know that future relationships will be based on love AND respect, or there will be no future relations. You won't regret it.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, KNOXVILLE, TENN.

DEAR BEEN THERE: People who have spent a lifetime trying to please others may find your recommendations difficult to put into practice. Habits can become so entrenched that they are hard to break without coaching and positive reinforcement. That is why I advise those who feel constantly put upon to consider taking classes in assertiveness training.

■ ■ ■

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Have a happy, healthy and safe Fourth of July, everyone.

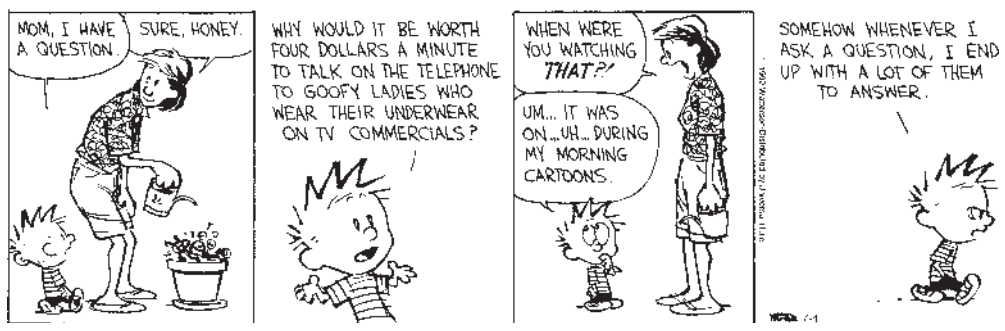
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

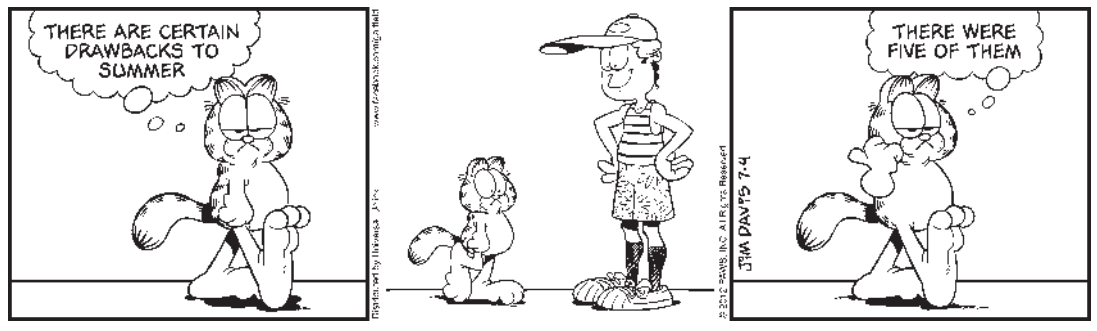
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM, I HAVE A QUESTION.
SURE, HONEY.
WHY WOULD IT BE WORTH FOUR DOLLARS A MINUTE TO TALK ON THE TELEPHONE TO GOOFY LADIES WHO WEAR THEIR UNDERWEAR ON TV COMMERCIALS?
WHEN WERE YOU WATCHING THAT?!
UM... IT WAS ON... UH... DURING MY MORNING CARTOONS.
SOMEHOW WHENEVER I ASK A QUESTION, I END UP WITH A LOT OF THEM TO ANSWER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



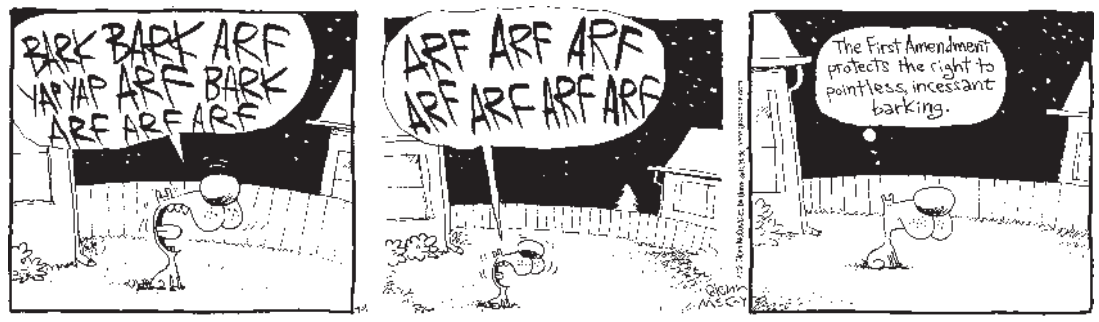
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ANDRE, GIVE ME SOMETHING STRONG.
HAZMAT GUYS TOLD US TO STOP SERVING DOGS NUCLEAR BLEND.
FASCISTS! WHERE WILL I FIND MY STRENGTH!?
HAVE YOU TRIED YOGA?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


BARK BARK ARF YAP YAP ARF BARK ARF ARF ARF
ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF
The First Amendment protects the right to pointless, incessant barking.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Binge
4 Sulk
8 Protein-rich bean
12 The whole shebang
13 Always
14 "Once — a time, ..."
15 Menagerie
16 Rabelais' giant
18 Football ref, jocularly
20 Peculiar
21 Swedish pop quartet
24 Congo, formerly
28 Odie's tormentor
32 Level
33 Carnival city
34 Takes a whack at
36 Moreover
37 "American —"
39 Clothing
41 Gold, silver or bronze
43 Wield scissors
44 Cattle call?
46 Chortle
50 19th-century Italian patriot
55 Aye canceler
56 Verve
57 Adolescent
58 Gratuity
59 Dalai —
60 Croon
61 Inseparable

DOWN
1 Satchmo's specialty
2 Lotion additive
3 Amorphous mass
4 Data storage measure
5 Eggs
6 Apiece
7 Therefore
8 Soda shop treat
9 Choose (for)
10 Thee
11 Literary collection
17 Wood-shaping tool
19 U.K. mil. group
22 Titanic thwarter
23 Pseudonym
25 Terrible guy?
26 Landlord's due
27 Odds and —
28 Gloomy
29 Staffer
30 Cheer (for)
31 Bruce or Laura of films
35 Preparing to be photographed
38 Thin layer
40 Eco-minded grp.
42 High-arc shot
45 Feedbag fill
47 "Do — others ..."
48 Profit
49 Advertise, and then some
50 Solidify
51 Chicken — king
52 Aries
53 Island souvenir
54 Lair

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	C	A	B	■	L	O	A	F	■	L	A	P
A	G	U	E	■	A	R	G	O	■	I	R	A
L	I	G	H	T	Y	E	A	R	■	G	N	U
■	■	■	O	R	S	O	■	F	T	H	F	I
B	E	L	L	Y	■	■	O	M	I	T	■	■
A	M	I	D	■	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R
R	I	G	■	P	E	C	A	N	■	U	T	A
E	T	H	E	R	E	A	L	■	S	L	A	V
■	■	■	T	E	E	D	■	■	N	O	B	L	E
S	A	H	E	S	■	A	I	O	M	■	■	■
A	G	O	■	L	I	G	H	T	B	E	E	R
N	E	O	■	E	C	R	U	■	E	R	G	O
E	S	T	■	Y	E	A	S	■	R	A	G	E

Yesterday's answer 7-4

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, 30; Becki Newton, 34; Geraldo Rivera, 69; Neil Simon, 85.

Happy Birthday: Look for opportunities to partner with people who bring you greater stability and an equal contribution. Balance will make the difference to your success. Unpredictable situations and people will cause worry and trouble. Don't take on responsibilities that will weigh you down or hinder your chance to get ahead. Your numbers are 4, 16, 21, 23, 28, 35, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let emotions flavor your day when it comes to professional dealings. Keep a straight face and conceal your intentions for the time being. Pour energy into developing your plans until you are fully prepared to launch. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Feel out a pending situation and you will discover information that will help you organize your next move. Someone you feel responsible for will offer you something in return. Use charm to get what you want. Pushiness will lead to upset. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do your research before getting involved in a venture that requires a cash investment. Network with people who can help you advance. Your charming way of displaying who you are and what you can offer will seal a deal. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Avoid family feuds or discord with a partner. Beautify your surroundings or spend time rethinking ways to improve your image or current emotional situation. Interest in different cultures will instigate a positive change. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Mix and mingle with people involved in similar interests. The more you discuss what you can do, the more options will open up. A partnership can bring you good fortune, as long as you set up ground rules from the outset. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't spend too much time on details or you will not reach your deadline on time. Offer time, money and information in order to get the best results. Avoid making personal alterations based on a sales pitch that is too good to be true. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Expand your mind and delve into new interests. Enjoying the company of someone who shares your interests will help you make decisions that can alter your current way of living, as well as your partnerships. Love is in the stars. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Travel if it will help close a deal or find information pertinent to what you are pursuing. Don't be afraid to make changes to the way you do things if it will ensure that you get the job done efficiently and on time. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep moving. You can accomplish plenty if you are driven and determined to get things done. Your dedication and passion will place you in a good position when it comes to advancement and new opportunities. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't be confused by the reactions you get from someone dependent on you or forcing responsibilities on you. Put your own agenda first. Take time to reassess and nurture the partnerships that give an equal amount in return. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Emotions will get you thinking about your future and your personal life. You can enhance the relationships that mean the most to you by spending time with a loved one or making changes to your home or family. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Tread carefully when in conversation with a competitive person. Miscommunication will have a huge affect on a partnership you have been trying to develop. Keep your thoughts private and observe what others do and say. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have charisma, charm and leadership ability. You are aggressive and persuasive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	8	6	3	2		
	5						4	
3								
4								
8				9	6	7	1	5
6								2
9								6
	3						7	
		6	2	5	4	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	8	4	6	5	1	9	2
1	4	2	9	3	8	5	7	6
9	5	6	2	7	1	3	4	8
5	9	1	3	4	6	2	8	7
6	8	7	5	9	2	4	1	3
4	2	3	1	8	7	6	5	9
8	7	5	6	2	4	9	3	1
2	1	9	7	5	3	8	6	4
3	6	4	8	1	9	7	2	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/03

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DONNA SUMMER (1948-2012) Solution: 8 letters

D	K	P	R	D	W	A	L	K	A	W	A	Y	H	T
A	L	L	A	E	O	U	R	A	D	I	O	O	S	F
N	A	D	I	T	O	R	O	C	S	I	D	A	T	O
C	T	B	N	S	H	E	C	U	R	B	L	U	E	S
E	Y	R	B	A	U	E	K	H	O	S	T	A	G	E
V	D	O	O	W	B	Z	A	M	E	L	O	D	Y	N
E	O	O	W	N	P	G	A	T	I	S	E	Y	N	I
I	B	K	S	L	A	P	O	N	E	M	T	M	A	A
L	C	L	A	M	I	D	I	S	N	R	I	E	I	G
E	O	Y	A	Ⓛ	N	L	U	A	P	A	R	R	R	E
B	L	N	Ⓘ	E	T	Y	M	S	N	E	W	E	D	R
H	D	Ⓥ	E	B	I	N	A	E	V	O	L	J	A	M
A	Ⓔ	U	T	E	N	I	G	H	T	L	I	F	E	A
I	Q	U	F	R	G	V	I	F	H	E	A	V	E	N
R	S	N	O	Y	A	R	C	A	R	R	Y	O	N	Y

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 7/4

Adrian, Amanda, Band, Believe, Blues, Body Talk, Brooklyn, Bruce, Carry On, Cold, Crayons, Dance, Disco, Dorchester, Gaines, Germany, Gospel, Hair, Heaven, Hostage, Jeremy, Last, Live, Love, Magic, Melody, Mimi, Nightlife, Painting, Path, Piano, Play, Queen, Radio, Rainbow, Rebel, Rock, Silk, Soft, Soul, Sudano, Suzanna, Theater, Vinyl, Walk Away, Wasted, Write.

Yesterday's Answer: Biathlon

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOOKING TO BUY VEHICLES

We're buying '95 & Up used cars! Transaction only within 30 mins. Call 287-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio.

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Massage Shop on Guam. sale for business (not real estate) well populated area. $10,000. call 671-727-8447 or send inquiry to tropicisla@hotmail.com

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Anaks Condo, 2BRs, washer/dryer, ceiling fans, a/c, storage, r/o water, swimming pool, tennis court, gated, 24/7 security. Ideal location, close to central Garapan. Call Ron Barrineau 322-4758 or 483-4785.

WHATZIT Solution:
Turn a blind eye

Java Joe's
is in need of (1) Cook

- Candidate must have at least 1 year in food service as a cook.
- Must be knowledgeable in cooking breakfast foods and other cuisines.
- Must be flexible in work schedule i.e. early morning, afternoon and late evening/weekends/holidays.

Interested applicants may submit resume with picture, police clearance, employment certificate and work recommendation by person to

Java Joe's in Dan Dan.
PMB 668 PO BOX 10,000
Saipan MP 96950

No phone calls will be entertained.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.
DBA: SUCCESS AUTO REPAIR SHOP
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) BODY REPAIRMAN / WELDER
RATE: $5.05 - $5.50 PER HOUR

(1) AUTO AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT ELECTRICIAN
RATE: $5.50 - $6.00 PER HOUR

QUALIFICATIONS:
MORE THAN 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
H.S. VOCATIONAL OR COLLEGE LEVEL

Knowledgeable in mechanical problem.
In charge of repairing, troubleshooting and upgrading the vehicle's electrical system as well as the devices that relies on electrical energy.

KNOW HOW TO DIAGNOSE ELECTRICAL WIRING/CABLE PROBLEM OF VEHICLE

KNOW HOW TO REPAIR OR HANDLE EVERYTHING SUCH AS VEHICLE IGNITION, ALARM, COOLING AND HEATING SYSTEM, POWER WINDOW AND LOCK, NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

APPLY OR SEND RESUME TO SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL CORP.
PMB 778 BOX 10003 SAIPAN, MP 96950
LOWER BASE OR CALL 322-1558/1988

HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL

P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338 | TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 FAX: (670) 237-2529

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: July 5, 2012 **Close Date:** July 12, 2012

Position: (1) Sales Clerk
Salary: $5.05 per hour

Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience / Preferably Chinese Speaking.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2.
Employment application forms are available at
Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Lorraine Erica Basa Ngirkelau
P.O. Box 501786
Saipan, MP 96950-1786
Telephone No.: (670) 256-2202

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: Lorraine Erica Basa Ngirkelau Petitioner / **Lorraine Erica Basa Ngirkelau**	]	**FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0268** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 19, 2012, at 9:30am in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 15th day of June, 2012.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Leilani Margarete Basa-Alam
P.O. Box 501786
Saipan, MP 96950-1786
Telephone No.: (670) 256-2202

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: Leilani Margarete Basa-Alam Petitioner / **Leilani Margarete Basa-Alam**	]	**FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0269** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 19, 2012, at 9:30am in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 15th day of June, 2012.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) CHINESE INTERPRETER

Submit resume to:
INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE AGENCY
or call tel nos. 234-1942 • 235-5555

MARPAC

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Marianas Pacific Dist., Inc. is looking for highly motivated and experienced individuals to work as

Graphic Designer

- Good Oral and Written Communications Skills
- Must be proficient in Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator
- Computer literate with proficiency in Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and Outlook
- Knowledge of Corel Draw & Onyx Poster Shop is a plus
- Must be able to brainstorm and mock up new design ideas
- Must be detail & deadline oriented
- Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
- Must be 18 yrs of age or older

MarPac Dist., Inc Offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village – Saipan. Deadline of submission is on July 6, 2012.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.

As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and Eligibility to work in the CNMI. Drug testing, Police and Court Clearance.

MARPAC Dist., Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Duplex Apt Capitol Hill

2 br, 1 bth, Fully Furnished
w/ AC, Linens, Pots, Pans, etc.,
very private: 322-2424

Khorshed Alam
P.O. Box 501786
Saipan, MP 96950-1786
Telephone No.: (670) 256-2202

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of: AbdurRahman Basa Alam and Abdullah Basa Alam Minor Children / By: **Khorshed Alam** Petitioner.	]	**FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0270** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 16, 2012, at 1:30pm in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 15th day of June, 2012.

Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

venetian

WHATZIT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Source: Hawks agree to deal Joe Johnson to Nets

By TOM CANAVAN and LYNN DEBRUIN
AP SPORTS WRITER

The Hawks have agreed to deal All-Star guard Joe Johnson to the Brooklyn Nets for five players and a draft pick, and Atlanta will send forward Marvin Williams to the Utah Jazz for guard Devin Harris.

A person familiar with the Hawks-Nets deal told The Associated Press on Monday night that Atlanta will receive guards Anthony Morrow, Jordan Farmar and DeShawn Stevenson and forwards Jordan Williams and Johan Petro, along with a draft pick Brooklyn received from Houston in a prior deal. The selection only belongs to the Nets if it is not a lottery pick.

The person confirmed the trade on condition of anonymity because it cannot become official until Stevenson signs as a free agent with Brooklyn. Free agents cannot be signed until July 11.

Johnson has four years and $90 million left on his contract and new general manager Danny Ferry decided it was time to shed payroll and rebuild.

The 31-year-old Johnson averaged 18.8 points per game last season, his 11th in the NBA and seventh with Atlanta.

The Nets are hoping to team Johnson with free agent point guard Deron Williams, who they are working to re-sign, in the franchise's first season in New York City after decades in New Jersey.

Utah CEO Greg Miller acknowledged the deal for former first-round pick Marvin Williams while picking up guard Mo Williams at Salt Lake City International Airport in preparation for Tuesday's introductory press conference.

AP

In this April 4, 2012, file photo, Atlanta Hawks' Joe Johnson, right, drives against Charlotte Bobcats' Gerald Henderson, in an NBA basketball game in Atlanta.

The Jazz acquired Mo Williams in a multi-team deal last week that also sent Lamar Odom to the Clippers.

Miller said it was difficult to part with Harris but he was excited by what Mo Williams brings to the team.

Mo Williams said it felt good to be back where he started his career in 2003 and he had always hope to start for his first team.

The Harris-Marvin Williams deal now clears the way for that to happen.

"It's always unfortunate when we have to let a player go because all of our players work so hard and they're so invested in helping us win." Miller said. "And it's got to be a tough thing for them. I know it is for us. I wish Devin the best in his career."

Mo Williams, dressed in a red T-shirt, black shorts and a New Orleans Saints cap, arrived in Salt Lake City about 8:30 p.m. MDT.

He only has one year left on his current deal but expressed hope that he could be in Utah long term.

"I'm very excited about a new start for me and a second homecoming," Williams said Monday night.

Jazz General Manager Kevin O'Connor has called letting Mo Williams leave after just one season "the worst: mistake of his career.

"I know he says that a lot, but at the same time I was a young basketball player at the time," Mo Williams said. "Obviously he made a decision he thought was best for the organization. I never had a bad taste in my mouth about the organization. I always respected them because they gave me a shot.

"I watched 30 teams pass me in the first round. I always had a part of my heart for the Jazz and I'm glad I'm able to come back and prove my worth to them."

Harris arrived in Utah in 2011 as part of a blockbuster deal that sent Deron Williams to New Jersey.

But Harris struggled to find his niche with the Jazz, and while he stepped up his game late last season, he still has a career 31.5 percent shooting percentage from beyond the arc.

Harris, 29, is scheduled to make $8.5 million in 2012-13, the final year of his current contract.

Marvin Williams, 29, has averaged 11.5 points for Atlanta in his seven-year career, including 10.2 and 5.2 rebounds last season.

Mo Williams has been an All-Star as recently as 2009, and was part of a Cleveland team that won 66 games with LeBron James and advanced to the Eastern Conference Finals in 2009. He joined the Los Angeles Clippers in 2011.

"I think it's going to be great for us to have Mo here," Miller said. "Obviously he competed at the highest level. He knows what it takes to win. . I think he's going to help us win games."

Asked if there were more moves to come for the small-market Jazz, Miller said, "I hope so."

NBA BRIEFS

Anthony Davis sprains ankle, awaits evaluation

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Anthony Davis has a left ankle sprain that must be evaluated later this week before he can be cleared to practice with the U.S. team. Davis hurt his ankle at the team's training center in Westwego on Saturday, and Hornets spokesman Harold Kaufman said on Monday that the club considers Davis status for resuming training as day to day. The 6-foot-11 Davis, who led the nation with 4.65 blocks per game while leading Kentucky to a national title, is among the players being considered for the American squad at the London Olympics. Davis was drafted by the Hornets first overall last Thursday night and arrived in New Orleans on Friday. He was slated to train for several days at Hornets facilities, along with fellow New Orleans first-round draft pick Austin Rivers, before departing for U.S. practices that begin this Thursday in Las Vegas. USA Basketball is scheduled to announce its 12-man Olympic roster on Saturday.

Magic GM: Howard has indeed reissued trade request

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The Magic say they haven't committed to honoring Dwight Howard's latest trade demand that he be dealt to the Brooklyn Nets.

New Orlando general manager Rob Hennigan said Monday that Howard told him in a meeting last week that he would like to be traded, but Hennigan said he has not committed to honoring that demand. He said will keep communication lines open between both the All-Star and his agent.

It's exactly the scenario the Magic wanted to avoid—for a second time.

Howard listed several teams last season that he wanted to be traded to, but on the day of the trading deadline he committed to the Magic for the 2012-13 season. Magic CEO Alex Martins has said previously that the organization will not enter next season with Howard's situation unresolved.

Orlando was looking to sign Howard to a long-term deal, however, now that Howard has had his first, face-to-face sit down with the Magic's new general manager, the All-Star center made it clear he still very much wants out of Orlando.

Hennigan said that having Howard single out one team as a desired destination does complicate any potential trade scenarios, but for now, there is no immediate move the Magic to make following the sit down.

"As I told Dwight, I said `I don't know. I have to think about what you're telling me.' I want to take some time to process everything," Hennigan said of the meeting. "And the answer is we want to map out what's in the best interest of our team. And any decision that at decide going forward with will be one that we feel puts our team in a position to be successful and move forward."

Howard told Yahoo Sports Monday that he won't sign long-term with another team if the Magic decide to trade him to somewhere other than Brooklyn.

"There's only one team on my list and if I don't get traded there, I'll play the season out and explore my free agency after that," Howard said.

Howard also vigorously denied an ESPN report that he was claiming that the Magic blackmailed him at the trade deadline to give up the opt-out provision in his contract that would have allowed him to become a free-agent this summer.

Howard asked to be traded last season, and then opted-in for 2012-2013—forgoing becoming a free agent this summer.

"I never used the word blackmail in reference to any of my dealings with the Magic," Howard said. "I never said that. It's defamatory and it's inaccurate. I know what blackmail means and any report that I used the term incorrectly is inaccurate."

Hennigan also said the charge was never levied by Howard.

"In terms of his health, I think what I can tell you is that Dwight's rehabilitation process is progressing in the right direction," he said. "I do not believe his health will be an issue going forward."

Hennigan reiterated that beyond sharing Dwight's request, he wants the discussions beyond that to remain private at this time in order as a matter of trust between himself and Howard.

"That's my plan with Dwight and with whoever we talk to on our roster...I would leave it to Dwight to share with Dwight any details he wants to share about the conversation," Hennigan said. "But again, out of respect for the trust and privacy I'm trying to build I'm not really going to talk about what else we discussed."

Aside from Howard, the Magic are facing other lingering free agency questions surrounding career-long Magic players Jameer Nelson and J.J. Redick, and reigning league most improved player Ryan Anderson.

Nelson told the Magic last week that he would opt out of the final year and nearly $8 million of his contract and test free agency.

Redick is due $6.1 million next year in the final season of his deal, but the team can get out of that if they waive him by July 7.

Anderson is a restricted free agent, though the Magic extended a qualifying offer to the third-year forward last week. It allows the team to match any offer he receives on the open market this summer.

Hennigan said that they will take their time this week making a decision on Redick and still hope to keep Nelson next year.

"My hope is that he remains in Orlando and in a Magic uniform," he said of Nelson. "But there needs to be a mutual desire for that to happen."

Brooks agrees to contract extension with Thunder

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Scott Brooks has signed a multiyear extension to return as coach of the Oklahoma City Thunder. General manager Sam Presti announced Monday that Brooks agreed to a new contract, less than two weeks after the Thunder lost in five games to the Miami Heat in the NBA Finals. The team did not disclose terms of the contract. Other media outlets have reported the deal is for four years at more than $4 million per year. Brooks' previous deal was allowed to expire Saturday before the sides could come to an agreement on the terms. Brooks took over the Thunder early in the 2008-09 season and has led the team to the playoffs each of the past three seasons. A news conference with Brooks is scheduled for Tuesday.

Teixeira's error helps Rays beat Yankees

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—B.J. Upton and Carlos Pena homered as the Tampa Bay Rays took advantage of Mark Teixeira's first error of the season to beat the New York Yankees 4-3 on Monday.

Pinch hitter Brooks Conrad's RBI double with two outs in the seventh inning off David Robertson (0-3) made it 3-all. Teixeira followed by misplaying Elliot Johnson's sharp grounder over first base for his first error in 671 chances this year, enabling Conrad to score the go-ahead run.

Matt Moore (5-5) allowed three runs while scattering nine hits over seven innings to win his fourth straight decision. The Rays stopped a two-game losing streak that had dropped them a season-high 7 1-2 games behind the first-place Yankees in the AL East.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays' B.J. Upton, right, slaps hands with third base coach Tom Foley as he rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run off of New York Yankees pitcher Freddy Garcia during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 2, 2012, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Royals 11, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Mike Moustakas hit his first career grand slam, Everett Teaford pitched seven innings for his first win of the season as Kansas City beat Toronto.

Salvador Perez hit a two-run home run as the Royals snapped a three-game losing streak, matched their season high with 14 hits and beat Toronto for the first time in five meetings this season.

Jose Bautista hit his major league leading 27th home run and Colby Rasmus clubbed a solo shot off the facing of the fifth deck but it wasn't enough for the Blue Jays, who lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Teaford (1-0) allowed three runs and five hits to win for the first time since last September. He walked two and struck out two.

Angels 3, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Jered Weaver carried a shutout into the eighth inning, squirming out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh, to lead the Los Angeles Angels to a win over Cleveland.

Weaver (9-1) allowed five singles, struck out two and remained unbeaten in Cleveland. He's 5-0 with 1.52 ERA in eight career starts at Progressive Field. Scott Downs worked out of a mess in the eighth and pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

The Indians loaded the bases in the seventh off Weaver, who got a force at the plate, foul pop and strikeout to end Cleveland's best threat.

Howard Kendrick homered in the seventh off Cleveland's Ubaldo Jimenez (7-7).

Twins 6, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Trevor Plouffe hit a two-run single during Minnesota's four-run fourth inning, helping Minnesota beat Detroit.

Minnesota had six singles in all during its big inning as it earned its fourth consecutive win to lift Ron Gardenhire to 900 career victories.

Anthony Swarzak (2-4) picked up the win, allowing a hit and one walk in 2 2-3 innings of relief. Alex Burnett allowed only one walk in 1 1-3 innings and Glen Perkins pitched the ninth for his third save in five chances in place of injured closer Matt Capps.

Mariners 6, Orioles 3

In Seattle, Casper Wells hit a go-ahead, three-run double with two out in the seventh inning as Seattle beat Baltimore.

Miguel Olivo and Dustin Ackley added back-to-back homers in the eighth as the Mariners rallied for the win in their first game of the season against Baltimore.

Wells had a couple of scoring chances earlier in the game and failed to drive in any runners. But he came up in the eighth and drove an 0-1 pitch from Jason Hammel (8-4) into the gap in right-center. Ackley, Munenori Kawasaki and Ichiro Suzuki all scampered home to give Seattle a 4-3 lead.

Athletics 6, Red Sox 1

In Oakland, California, Josh Reddick and Brandon Moss homered against their former team to send Daisuke Matsuzaka to an early exit and lead Oakland to a victory over Boston.

Jarrod Parker (5-3) was the beneficiary of the home runs, allowing one run and six hits in 6 2-3 innings to get the win.

Parker allowed one run or fewer for 10th time in 14 career starts. He is the first pitcher since Ferdie Schupp of the New York Giants to do that in his first 14 starts, although Schupp was a spot starter who pitched mostly in relief when he did it from 1913-17.

Matsuzaka (0-3) was knocked out before retiring a batter in the second inning.

Cardinals 9, Rockies 3

In St. Louis, Allen Craig hit a pair of home runs and Carlos Beltran extended his RBI streak to a major league-high nine games, helping Kyle Lohse and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Colorado Rockies.

Matt Holliday homered and drove in two runs for the Cardinals, who punished a pitching staff that entered with a major league-worst 5.37 ERA.

Tyler Colvin and Wilin Rosario homered for the Rockies, who have dropped five of seven. Rosario homered for the third straight game, but Colorado pitchers totaled four wild pitches, eight walks and an error that allowed a run. Tyler Chatwood (1-1) got the loss.

Reds 8, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, rookies Devin Mesoraco and Todd Frazier had three RBIs each, leading Cincinnati to the victory.

Homer Bailey (6-6) allowed two runs and five hits in eight innings for NL Central-leading Cincinnati, which played without injured sluggers Joey Votto and Scott Rolen. He struck out seven and walked one.

Chad Billingsley (4-8) lost his fourth straight start, giving up three runs and six hits in six innings with eight strikeouts and no walks.

Brewers 6, Marlins 5

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Norichika Aoki drove in the go-ahead run with a safety squeeze in the eighth inning, lifting Milwaukee over Florida.

Rickie Weeks sparked the winning rally with a leadoff double. He moved up on Martin Maldonado's single to right and scored when Aoki greeted Randy Choate with a bunt single that gave Milwaukee a 6-5 lead.

Justin Ruggiano hit a two-run homer and finished with a career-high four RBIs for Miami, which committed three errors that led to two unearned runs. Ryan Webb (3-2) got the loss.

Cubs 4, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Jeff Samardzija had a career-high 11 strikeouts and Luis Valbuena hit a tiebreaking three-run double in the seventh as Chicago earned its fourth consecutive win.

Anthony Rizzo connected for Chicago, which has won six of seven overall. Rizzo, one of the Cubs' top prospects, has two homers in six games since he was recalled last Tuesday.

Samardzija (6-7) yielded one run and four hits in seven innings, rebounding from a rough June. Jeff Russell pitched the ninth for his second save.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Clayton Richard came within one out of a complete game, and Alexi Amarista hit one of three San Diego home runs in a win over Arizona.

Cameron Maybin hit a 485-foot drive and Yasmani Grandal also connected as the Padres picked up their third straight win.

Grandal has three career hits, all of them home runs. The last player whose first three hits were homers was Keith McDonald for St. Louis in 2000—those turned out to be the only three hits he got in the majors.

Richard (6-8) was pulled after 8 2-3 innings after allowing consecutive singles to Ryan Roberts and Gerardo Parra. Joe Thatcher struck out pinch-hitter Jason Kubel for his first career save.

Pirates 11, Astros 2

In Pittsburgh, Garrett Jones and Neil Walker hit back-to-back homers off the right-field foul pole to ignite Pittsburgh's offense against Houston.

James McDonald (8-3) pitched seven effective innings for the Pirates, who won for the fifth time in six games.

Limited to one hit over the first three innings by Jordan Lyles, the first five Pirates to bat in the fourth had hits, highlighted by Jones' two-run homer and Walker's solo shot.

Jones finished with four hits and four RBIs, and Andrew McCutchen also went 4-for-5 for the Pirates, whose 16-5 home record since May 12 is the best in the majors.

Sharapova loses at Wimbledon, will drop from No. 1

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—All at once, there was a frenzy of activity at a wet and windy All England Club early Monday afternoon.

Top-seeded and 2004 Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova, a big hitter in her own right, was overpowered in a 6-4, 6-3 loss to No. 15 Sabine Lisicki. Four-time title winner Serena Williams was locked in a three-set tussle against a wild-card entry from Kazakhstan who is ranked 65th but is responsible for the only perfect set in women's professional tennis. Defending champion Petra Kvitova was trying to come back after dropping her opening set.

Oh, and over on Centre Court, there was the not-so-insignificant matter of 16-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer's medical timeout to get treatment for his aching back.

The start of Week 2 at Wimbledon has been dubbed "Manic Monday," because it's the only major tournament that schedules all 16 fourth-round singles matches on one day.

Sure lived up to that moniker this year, even if rain prevented five of the eight men's matches from finishing.

The most newsworthy result was the abrupt end of Sharapova's bid to become the first woman since Williams in 2002 to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year. Less than a month after completing a career Grand Slam in Paris to return to No. 1, Sharapova bowed out against someone she had beaten the three other times they met. She will be replaced atop the rankings next week.

"Nothing is easy. Certainly not a Wimbledon title," Sharapova said. "So I don't know if it's easier or tougher now than it was years ago, but I don't think it's ever easier."

Federer, seeking a seventh trophy at the grass-court Grand Slam, beat Xavier Malisse 7-6 (1), 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 to reach a 33rd consecutive major quarterfinal, adding to his record. After the seventh game, Federer got help from a trainer for his back. When he returned, his play didn't appear to suffer all that much, other than slower-than-usual serves. On the other hand, Federer capped the match with a 122 mph ace.

"Honestly, I'm not too worried. I've had bad backs over the years. I've been around. They go as quick as they came," he said. "But of course I have to keep an eye on it now."

Federer now faces No. 26 Mikhail Youzhny, a 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-5 winner over Denis Istomin. Federer is 13-0 against Youzhny, who chose to look on the bright side, saying: "I have one more chance."

The only other man assured a spot in Wednesday's quarterfinals is No. 1 Novak Djokovic. The defending champion improved to 12-1 against Viktor Troicki, his doubles partner for Serbia at the upcoming London Olympics, by winning 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 under the Centre Court roof.

"Weather is always an obstacle here," Djokovic said.

Two men's matches never started, and three were suspended: No. 4 Andy Murray leads No. 16 Marin Cilic by a set and a break; No. 10 Mardy Fish took the first set against No. 5 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and they're tied 1-all in the second; No. 31 Florian Mayer leads No. 18 Richard Gasquet 6-3, 2-1.

Shottas, Rollers notch wins in Docomo Summer U25 caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Shottas and Rollers tabbed victories over separate foes in Friday's Docomo Pacific Youth Summer Basketball League U25 pairings held at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The Shottas bested Safety 1st, 31-26, in the first matchup, after which the Rollers overcame the Peace Makers, 33-24, in the second feature.

Safety 1st's John Darag lit up the scoreboard with 17 points in the opening tiff, but it was not enough to hold off the collective effort put in by the Shottas through regulation.

Shottas' Eugene Manglona and Roy Babauta teamed up for 15 points in the game and received a lot more support from their teammates; the halftime score was not provided.

The Peace Makers managed a slim, 11-10, lead at the half in the second match thanks to a couple of baskets apiece by Luis and Lambert Reyes, but the Rollers regrouped after the break and finished the game strong in the payoff period.

Rollers' J.P. Iglesias buried a couple of 3-pointers to help gain control, while teammate Prince Factor tallied 10 markers to help secure the win.

Factor finished with 16 points to lead all scorers. Peace Makers' Reyes led his squad with 10.

Docomo's U17 matches took place last night; details will be released later this week.

From there the season continues at 5:30pm on Friday with U25's GVH against the R-Rebels followed by the Saints clashing with Safety 1st at 6:30pm.

First Game

Shottas 31 – Manglona 8, R Babauta 7, Domai 5, Z Babauta 3, Mettao 3, Caro 2, Taitano 2.

Safety 1st 26 – Darag 17, Dela Rosa 5, Caro 2, Suarez 2.

Second Game

Rollers 33 – Factor 16, Iglesias 6, Teregeyo 6, Camacho 2, Laniyo 2, Teregeyo 2.

Peace Makers 24 – La. Reyes 10, Jung 6, J. Camacho 5, C. Camacho 2, Lu. Reyes 1.

Scoring by halves: 10-11, 33-24.

THUNDER

From Page 28

round and will duel Group A's second-seeded DLX.

Hip Hop Thunder may have won by 15 points, but the game was still close in the last 2:10 with Saipan Hardware behind by only 7, 69-62, and had a chance to slice the deficit further after Errol Peredo was given a bonus shot off Dan Mateo's foul. Mateo was also slapped with a technical foul for excessive complaining, giving Saipan Hardware three free throws plus possession.

However, Zack Babauta muffed the two technical free throws, while Peredo also faltered on his charity. Then after the inbound play, Saipan Hardware failed to score anew when Tim Quan went for a quick jumper and the ball hit nothing but air.

Hip Hop Thunder melted the clock in the ensuing plays, while Saipan Hardware was forced to give up fouls and was eventually booted out of the single-elimination playoffs.

Saipan Hardware and Hip Hop Thunder slugged it out in the first quarter before the latter assumed control of the match late in the second frame, using its quickness to outsmart the much taller frontliners of the latter. Saipan Hardware, which have several big men (Quan, Alex Lauron, Zack Diaz, and Hae Jun Park) failed to capitalize on its superior ceiling and instead opted to take outside shots and missed on most occasion.

Only a point separated Hip Hop Thunder and Saipan Hardware after the first canto, 22-21, before Lauron scored latter's first 8 points to grab the lead, 29-27. However, Hip Hop Thunder behind Jomary Tumaquip's leadership regrouped and picked up the tempo of the game for a 12-2 windup and a 39-31 halftime advantage. Saipan Hardware lost the driver's seat midway in the second period, as only Lauron hit the scoreboard for the team.

Tumaquip led six Thunder players in double figures with his 18 points, while only five players scored for Saipan Hardware and three hit twin digits and the two others combined for only 9 markers.

In the second half, Mobil played better in the second half after a sluggish start to foil Star Water's upset bid.

Star Water stunned Mobil early with White Capalad knocking in 9 points for the former's 24-16 advantage. Capalad added 8 more points off a triple and a layup, as Star Water kept the upper hand at halftime, 39-35.

Capalad finished the half with 17 point and that was it for him, as Mobil managed to silence the Star Water guard in the second half. On offense, Jun Estolas began to take over for Mobil in the third period, firing 8 points, while Angelo Fernando, Jason Bahillo, and Bart Demapan also made contributions to put their team on top, 58-52.

Mobil hung in there with Estolas putting the finishing touches on their come-from-behind and leading all scorers with his 24 markers.

Meanwhile, Ashley's and R-Rebels were scheduled to play in the first game last night for the right to face Group B top seed Loving Hands tomorrow. Wanted Sponsor and Cargo Express were also set to meet in the second game last night with the winner challenging Group A top-ranked QQ Rent A Car.

First Game

Mobil 78 – Estolas 24, Ruluked 18, Fernando 10, Demapan 9, Bahillo 5, De Guzman 5, Villarin 4.

Star Water 69 – Capalad 17, De Dios 11, Santos 8, Moises 8, Sacramento 8, Rivera 7, Gomez 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-24, 35-39, 58-52, 78-69.

Second Game

Hip Hop Thunder 80 – Tumaquip 18, D. Mateo 14, Libuw 12, I. Devero 12, C. Devero 11, Sacramento 10, N. Mateo 2.

Saipan Hardware 65 – Peredo 23, Tenorio 17, Lauron 12, Quan 7, Babauta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-21, 39-31, 54-46, 80-65.

MARIANAS

From Page 28

to keep the spot unless Irish Spring/DLX dropped its three remaining matches. Irish Spring will need to win only one game to complete the playoff cast and eliminate Docomo (3-4) and AD 31 (3-4).

The Mawati-Docomo tiff was first played on May 28 and was rained out at the 1:54 mark with the former comfortably ahead, 58-46.

Mawati took control of the match after holding Docomo to single digits in each of the first three quarters. Docomo had 9 points each in the first and third period and had its worst production in the second canto, making only 5 markers.

In the other Bracket A match, Marianas Water eliminated LD Prime, which fell to a 1-5 record for the last place in the eight-team group.

Melvin Capalad led Marianas Water to the 4-point win, scoring 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter.

The match was tied after three period, 63-all, before Capalad took the cudgels for Marianas Water, scoring 4 straight points in the homestretch. Joseph Galulu and Amor Casabuena also contributed to the cause, combining for 7 in the fourth period.

LD Prime lost in the end as only Lawrence Rollon and Angelo Hernaez made more than two field goals in the fourth canto.

R-Lyn 103, San Roque 59

In Bracket B, R-Lyn's kept its playoff hopes alive after whipping San Roque.

R-Lyn's now has a 2-3 record, just one win behind Banahaw and Brabu Gualo Rai, which are tied for third and fourth place with similar 3-3 slates. KFC/Taco Bell and the Fastbreakers occupy the Top 2 spots and are assured of the playoff tickets.

San Roque, which finished the regular season with a 2-5 record, is out of the running, leaving R-Lyn's, Banahaw, Brabu, and Sinigang (2-3) to battle for the two remaining playoff berths. Wushin completes the field and was the first one to be eliminated with its 0-6 card.

Allen Reyes had a breakout game for R-Lyn's, as he sizzled for 30 points, while Aaron Wood added 24, as he had a feast in the paint against the depleted crew of San Roque.

First Game

Marianas Water 72 – Galulu 25, Capalad 20, Casabuena 10, Olivos 8, Pacheco 5, Vergara 2, Siriban 2.

LD Prime 68 – Rollon 25, Hernaez 19, Pena 6, Abaygar 6, Acosta 3, Perez 2, Espinosa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-19, 37-35, 53-53, 72-68.

Second Game

R-Lyn's 103 – Reyes 30, Wood 24, M. Puno 15, Capuyon Sr. 10, N. Puno 4, Buenabajo 4, Diaz 2, Echavez 1.

San Roque 59 – Fernando 19, Capuli 17, Salazar 13, Claveria 4, Odicta 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-17, 43-31, 70-43, 103-59.

Make-up Game

Mawati 63 – Reyes 14, Serrano 10, Ibanes 8, Tenepere 8, Avila 7, Enriquez 6, Samonte 2 Gontar 2, Pena 2.

Docomo/Yuichiro 52 – Usi 11, Gomez 8, Tudela 8, Enriquez 6, Tengco 6, Bautista 2, Achas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-9, 22-15, 41-24, 63-52.

ANGELS

From Page 28

Sablan (9) hot in pursuit. Other notables include the Ol'Aces duo of Juan Iguel (7) and Ben Taisacan (6) and Yankees' Jerome Delos Santos (6).

Delos Santos and Ol'Aces' Nokki Saralu are the lone home run hitters with one apiece, while Yankees' Camacho and Jones Jr. both front the triples category with two each.

Celis heads the pack in doubles with four with Juan Iguel, Angels' Nunu Kapileo, and IP&E-Shell Fielders' Anthon Tenorio all with three thus far.

Jones Jr. and Saralu are tied in total runs scored with 13 and lead Celis (11), Sablan (11), Delos Santos (10), Jesus Iguel (10), and Reyes (10).

In pitching, although Angels' Manny Cabrera has allowed eight runs to the plate in 13 and 2/3 innings, none of them were earned and his 0.00 earned run average remains at the helm.

Yankees' Joshua Jones (3-0) has allowed two earned runs through 29 innings for a highly respectable 0.62 ERA.

Brewers' Vince Cepeda is also having a good year on the mound and has allowed just a couple earned runs through 23 and 2/3 innings for a 0.76 ERA.

Other notables include Thomas Camacho (0.87ERA), Angels Franco Flores (1.96), Ol'Aces' Taisacan (2.25), and Ol'Aces' Juan Iguel (3.80).

Joshua Jones' 62 strikeouts are still heads and shoulders above the field. He acquired them in only three appearances before leaving last month to play college ball in Kansas.

This opened the door for Fielders' Elton Santos who trails him by 20.

Cepeda is also in the race at 40 with Fielders' Brandon Santos, Flores, and Juan Iguel playing catch-up with a handful of others.

The current team standings show the Yankees and the Brewers sharing the spotlight with identical 6-1 win-loss records.

Behind them are the Ol'Aces (5-2), defending champion Angels (4-3), Fielders (2-5), Rep. Sylvester Iguel Masters (1-6), and D-9ers (0-6).

Laolao Bay offers free golf lessons to youth

As part of its community service, the Laolao Bay Golf Resort will be offering free golf lessons to the youth starting this Saturday, July 7.

The lessons are open to the first 20 junior golfers who register and will be held every Saturday starting July 7 to Aug. 25 at Laolao Bay's sprawling Kagman golf course.

Registration is ongoing and lessons will be held every Saturday from 8am to 10am. Registration forms are available at Laolao Bay. For more information, call Laolao Bay 236-8888 or Tony Satur at 236-8840. ***(PR)***

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

gie aims to finish the 50m freestyle under 29 seconds, while Angie Marie Tan will go for a record-swim in the girls 13 to 14 100m breaststroke. Tan's PBT in the 100m breaststroke is 1:22.12, just less than a second behind the 13-year-old record (1:21.64) of Jil Pierce.

Kaito Yanai's goal is to eclipse the second oldest record in the boys 11 to 12 age group—the 200m individual medley mark of Joshua Taitano, who timed in at 2:35.68 on April 1, 1994. Taitano also holds the oldest record in the age group—2:18.66 in the 200m freestyle made on March 28, 1994. Yanai's PBT in the 200m IM is 2:36.22.

Miku Tammy, who crushed four marks in the girls 9 to 10 age group during the Guam meet in May this year, hopes to break Jellian Majors' record in the 50m freestyle (33.36 seconds /May 8, 2005). Tammy's best time in the 50m freestyle reads at 34.17 seconds

Ryuto Yanai, who owns five records in the boys U8 divisions, aims to update his own mark and CNMI age group records in the 50m freestyle (33.04 seconds/April 14, 2012), 50m butterfly (36.48 seconds/Feb. 18, 2012), and the 100m freestyle (1:15.18/May 26, 2012).

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan had a chance to swim with Olympic gold medalist (800m freestyle) Ai Shibata of Japan late last month at the Marpi pool.

She visited us last Saturday and swam with us. She gave a lot of advice to our young swimmers. We thanked Central Sports for giving us the chance to meet Ms. Shibata," Kimura said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	48	31	.608	–
Baltimore	42	37	.532	6
Boston	42	38	.525	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	42	38	.525	6 1/2
Toronto	40	40	.500	8 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	42	37	.532	–
Cleveland	40	39	.506	2
Detroit	39	41	.488	3 1/2
Kansas City	36	42	.462	5 1/2
Minnesota	34	45	.430	8

West Division

Texas	50	30	.625	–
Los Angeles	45	35	.563	5
Oakland	39	42	.481	11 1/2
Seattle	35	47	.427	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	45	32	.584	–
New York	43	37	.538	3 1/2
Atlanta	41	38	.519	5
Miami	38	41	.481	8
Philadelphia	36	45	.444	11

Central Division

Cincinnati	44	35	.557	–
Pittsburgh	43	36	.544	1
St. Louis	42	38	.525	2 1/2
Milwaukee	37	42	.468	7
Houston	32	48	.400	12 1/2
Chicago	30	49	.380	14

West Division

San Francisco	45	35	.563	–
Los Angeles	44	37	.543	1 1/2
Arizona	39	40	.494	5 1/2
San Diego	31	50	.383	14 1/2
Colorado	30	49	.380	14 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

DLX Standings (Unofficial)

Bracket A

Team Pogi	5	1
DLX/Irish Spring	3	1
Mawati	4	2
Marianas Water	4	3
Docomo	3	4
AD 31	3	4
8-Division	1	4
LD Prime	1	5

Bracket B

KFC/Taco Bell	6	1
Fastbreakers	6	1
Banahaw	3	3
Gualo Rai	3	3
Sinigang	2	3
R-Lyn's	2	3
San Roque	2	5
Wushin Express	0	6

UFO Docomo Pacific Cup U20/U14 Division

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

DeMolay's Dae Min Jeon goes up for a shot against POWER/Hi-Five defenders during a regular season game in the U20 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DeMolay's Josh Borja looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.

DYS/Bayani's Bryl Alegre makes a shot in the paint during their game against SIP/Barney's.

SIP/Barney's John Darag goes for a fastbreak layup against AON/Boholano.

AON/Boholano's John Capuyon, right, beats teammate Shawn Escalada, center, and POWER/Hi-Five's Gary Macahito.

SIP/Barney's Lester Vertudez pulls up for a jumper

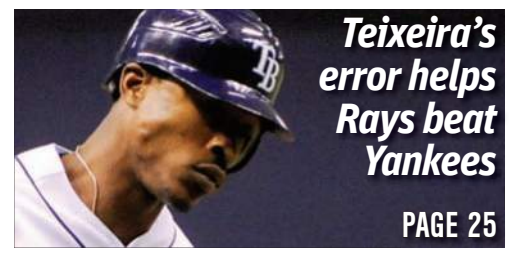
DYS/Bayani's Christian Mizer takes a free throw.

POWER/Hi-Five's Frank Macahito pulls up for a runner.

VisMinda/Hi-Five's Elnathan Wong goes up for a jumper against two MDX/Armatech defenders during their U14 game.

An MDX/Armatech defender challenges the drive of a VisMinda/Hi-Five player during the second quarter of their U14 match.

Saipan Tribune
Sports



Thunder, Mobil survive first round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hip Hop Thunder and Mobil lived for another day after prevailing in separate knockout games at the start of the playoff round of the 2012 Blue Haus Invitational League last Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Mobil played in the opening match and outclassed Star Water, 78-69, while Hip Hop Thunder downed Saipan Hardware in the second game, 80-65. Mobil advanced to the second round and will face Group B's second-ranked N.V.M, which drew a bye in the first round, on July 7. Hip Hop Thunder also made it to the next

See THUNDER on Page 26

Saipan Hardware defenders watch Hip Hop Thunder's Ivan Devero pull up for a shot during the fourth quarter their playoff game in the Blue Haus caging last Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas Water, Mawati win playoff seats

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
R-Lyn's Allen Reyes scoots for a layup against San Roque's Emerson Claveria, left, and Ric Villanueva during their game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only one playoff berth is left in Bracket A of the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League, following Marianas Water and Mawati's separate wins last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Marianas Water outlasted LD Prime, 72-68, to finish the regular season with a 4-3 record. Mawati downed Docomo in a make-up game, 63-52, to improve to a 4-2 card and take the No. 3 spot in the team standings in Bracket A behind Team Pogi (5-1) and Irish Spring/DLX (3-1). Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs and Marianas Water is in fourth place and is likely

See ANGELS on Page 26

Angels' Reyes leads SML in batting

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
St. Michael's Medical Response Angels' John Reyes eyes an incoming pitch in this SML file photo taken earlier this season at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

St. Michael's Medical Response Angels slugger John B. Reyes holds Saipan Major League Baseball's top spot on the batting chart based on last Thursday supplement of statistics.

Reyes has belted 12 hits in 21 at bats for a league-high batting average of 0.571.

Behind him are Tan Holdings Brewers' Manny Sablan, Ol'Aces' Jesus Iguel, Brewers' Roy Celis and Byron Kaipat, Saipan Stevedore Company Northern Yankees' Chris Camacho (0.417), Angels' Marvin Kaipat (0.409), Rep. Ray Yumul D-9ers' Isaiah Lizama (0.400), and Yankees' Ben Jones Jr. (0.393) and Gary Cruz (0.350).

The batting statistics were based on at least 21 at bats.

Byron Kaipat leads the league in runs batted in (RBIs) with a dozen with Camacho (11) and

See ANGELS on Page 26

Tsunami Saipan sets targets for July 14 meet

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Olympic gold medalist Ai Shibata of Japan, second from left, back row, poses with Tsunami Saipan swimmers during a visit at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center will be holding a meet on July 14 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi with the host setting several goals for its swimmers.

"About 10 rookies will debut in the meet and they are expected to swim hard in every race," Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said.

The Tsunami Saipan coach added that besides their rookies, the junior and senior members of the club will also race next weekend's competition and they are urged to set personal best times in each event.

"We expect good results from our experienced swimmers. They have to update their PBTs," said, Kimura, who also mentioned the individual goals of five Tsunami Saipan swimmers.

Fifteen-year-old Takumi Su-

See TSUNAMI on Page 26